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## REVIEWS.

*My Exile in Siberia.* By Alexander Herzen. 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

*History of Christian Churches and Sects. Part VII., the Church of Russia.* By the Rev. J. B. Marsden, M.A. Bentley.

*Recollections of Russia during a Thirty-three Years' Residence.* By a German Nobleman. Revised and Translated, with the Author's sanction, by Lascelles Wraxall. Constable and Co.

We group together for notice this week some of the many works that have lately appeared on subjects connected with Russia. The first on the list is by an author of some note in the literature of his own country, and who is already known in Western Europe as an able political writer. For many years, M. Herzen, under the disguise of philosophical treatises, published in Russia his views on political subjects. Though exposed to much annoyance by the authorities, and exerting an influence disliked by the Government, it was with great difficulty that M. Herzen could put himself in voluntary exile. In 1847 he at length obtained a passport to visit other European countries. He witnessed the revolutionary events in France and Italy in 1848, of which, in more than one work, published in French and German, he has given a brief narrative. The circulation of his works was in that year interdicted by the Czar, and difficulties being also presented by the German press, he published in French two works, 'On the Development of Revolutionary Ideas in Russia,' and on 'The Russian People and Socialism.' The latter work has been spoken of in terms of high praise by Michelet the historian, who says, "The author writes our language with a heroic vigour which breaks through his anonymous disguise, and everywhere reveals the true patriot. I have read it, and re-read it, over and over again, with astonishment." \* So long as Europe possesses such men as the author, everything may be hoped." The circulation of M. Herzen's works was for a time arrested in Paris, but they are permitted to appear since the outbreak of the present war. Latterly, M. Herzen has settled in this country, and has established in London the first free Russian press. The present work is one of several which he has written since his residence in England. Another volume, entitled 'Prison and Exile,' appeared about a year ago, and being translated from the original Russian into German, and published at Hamburg, attracted considerable notice on the Continent. The title of the new work, which is now translated into English, is an attractive one. There is an old sympathy in this country for the 'Exiles of Siberia.' The reader will be somewhat disappointed, however, as to the subject of this work. It relates to passages in the author's early life, when he was exposed to troubles for his political opinions, but it does not describe the Siberia which romance as well as history has invested with so much interest to English readers. M. Herzen was not sent to the remote wilds and snowy wastes of Northern Siberia, but was settled at Wiatka, near the Ural Mountains, where he obtained official employment, and afterwards at Wladimir, and passed his time without being subjected to any of the severer hardships which are the fate of many Siberian exiles. However, the book is extremely interesting in its

matter, and valuable as revealing the working of the political system of Russia, and the condition of its people. Of the treatment to which those are exposed who, justly or unjustly, fall under the suspicion of the authorities, this statement is given:—

"In order to form an idea of a Russian prison, of Russian jurisdiction, and Russian police, a person must be either a peasant, a menial servant, workman or citizen. The political prisoners are certainly severely treated, and cruelly punished, but their fate can in no way be compared with that of the poor bearded men. The latter are treated without ceremony, and to whom should they address their complaints? Where can they find justice?"

"The disorder, the brutality, and arbitrariness of Russian courts of justice, and Russian police, are of such a nature, that the poor man fears his punishment less than the preceding process, and awaits with impatience the moment of his departure to Siberia, as a deliverance. His torments terminate where his punishment begins. And it must not be forgotten, that three parts of those, imprisoned upon a mere suspicion, and declared innocent afterwards by the Tribunal, have to go through the same torment as those who are guilty. Peter III. abolished the Secret Chancery and Torture-room. Catherine II. abolished torture. Alexander I. abolished it a second time. Answers extorted by brutality are not valid before law. Any official who tortures an accused man is himself subject to the most rigid punishment. And yet, notwithstanding all this, people are tortured through the whole of Russia, from Behring's Straits to Taurogen. Where blows are not allowed, other means are resorted to, and prisoners are made to endure insupportable heat, thirst, salted food, and other atrocities. For instance, one man was put on an iron floor with bare feet at ten degrees of cold; he fell ill, and died some time afterwards in an hospital, which was under the superintendence of Prince M—, who himself related this case with indignation."

Notices are given of many of M. Herzen's companions in exile, the names of some of whom are well known in Western Europe. Although M. Herzen speaks from personal knowledge only of the country on this side of the Ural Mountains, he describes with truth the condition of the remoter region of Siberia, not without hopeful anticipations as to its future destiny:—

"The east of Siberia is governed with still greater negligence. The distance is so great that news from there scarcely reaches St. Petersburg. At Irkutsk, was a governor who found a pleasure in firing off cannons in the middle of the town, when he was taking a walk, in a state of intoxication. Another, when he was quite drunk, used to dress in a full priest's dress, and perform divine service in the presence of the bishop. But at least the noise of the one and the devotion of the other, were not so injurious as Pestel's system of tyranny and Kapzewitch's uninterrupted cruel activity."

"It is a pity that Siberia is so badly superintended. The choice of governors has always been of the worst kind. I don't know how Muravief, the present Governor, behaves. He is renowned for his understanding and his abilities; but the others were good for nothing. Siberia has a great future; as yet, it is only looked upon as a reservoir which contains much money, furs, and other products of nature; but which is cold, covered with snow, poor in provisions and means of communication, and thinly peopled. All that, however, is not correct."

"The Russian government, which kills everything, which produces nothing but by force, and by the stick, does not understand how to give that impulse of life, which would bring Siberia forward with American rapidity. We shall see what astonishing results will happen, when one day the mouth of the Amoor is opened for navigation, and

when America meets Siberia on the confines of China."

"I said long ago that the Pacific Ocean will be the Mediterranean of the future. In this future, the part of Siberia is most important, in consequence of its position between the Pacific, Southern Asia, and Russia. It is understood, of course, that Siberia must extend to the Chinese frontier. Why should we be obliged to tremble with cold in Beresof and Irkutsk, when there is a Krasnoyarsk?"

"Even in the national character of the Russian population in Siberia, something exists which announces the possibility of another development. The Siberian race is well formed, healthy, clever, and prudent. The children of settlers, the Siberians, know nothing of the authority of the landed proprietors. There exists no nobility, and, consequently, no aristocracy in the towns. The officials and military officers, the representatives of the power, are rather like a hostile garrison, placed there by the conquerors, than like an aristocracy. The immense distances release the peasants from a too frequent intercourse with them. Money saves the merchants, who despise the officials in Siberia, and yield only apparently to them; but look on them as on what they really are, that is to say, their clerks of affairs in civil matters of business."

"The use of arms, which is everywhere necessary in Siberia, with the habit of encountering danger, has rendered the Siberian peasant much more martial, dexterous, and more able to offer resistance than the Russian. The long distances which generally separate him from churches, have left his mind freer from superstition than is the case with the Russian. He is indifferent as to religion; there are a great many sectarians. In many of the more distant villages, the 'Pope' (Russian priest) comes very rarely during the year; then he baptizes, marries and buries people, hears their confession, &c. for all the past time."

"On this side of the Ural Mountains, the administration is somewhat better, and yet I could supply whole volumes of anecdotes about the abuses and frauds of the officials of all ranks, which I have seen and heard, during my service in the office and in the dining-room of the governor."

We must not dismiss M. Herzen's book without a protest against the political principle which inspires his present literary labours. He maintains that for Europe there is now only Czarism or Socialism. It is this same delusion which is marring the hopes of rational liberty all over the Continent. The auspicious commencement of constitutional government in Sardinia might have gained consideration from Italian republicans, if actuated by patriotism rather than personal ambition. M. Herzen's experience of this country might have taught him that it is not necessary to advocate democratic anarchy in order to overthrow military despotism. We give the text of M. Herzen's arguments on this subject, that our readers may know the general tenor of the political tracts which are issued from "the Free Russian Press in London:—"

"The whole of Europe has now arrived at the necessity of a despotism like that of St. Petersburg, in order to save the existing organization of the State from the swelling tide of social ideas. Russia, drawn forward by the civilisation of Europe, has arrived to its last consequence. The absolute Cæsarean despotism is the last word of the present social organization, either Cæsarianism or socialism. There is no third possibility now."

"There was a time when the West, half-enfranchised, looked haughtily and disdainfully down upon the Russian people, crushed and passive under the imperial knout. And the civilized part of Russia, humiliated and suffering, lifted its eyes with envy and admiration up to its elder, free, and happy brothers."

"This time is no more! The equality of slavery puts us all on the same plane."

"Happen what will, though Russia be divided,



or Europe fall back to a Byzantine childhood, one thing is done, and has no more to be extirpated. The young generation in Russia has understood that the western accidental idea of socialism is the vague and confused ideal of the Russian people, is the realisation and the logical development of its rudimentary institutions. Every one can conclude the probable consequences of this."

IN Mr. Marsden's 'History of Christian Churches and Sects,' a work which we have on other occasions praised for the excellence of its spirit as well as the value of its matter, a concise account is given of the origin and condition of the Church of Russia. Of the introduction of Christianity, and its establishment as the national religion, the following is the narrative, notice having been previously taken of the missionaries sent by the patriarchs Photius and Ignatius, and at other times, from Constantinople:—

"The conversion of Olga, the widow of Ruric's son, prepared the way for the final overthrow of paganism; and from her reign may be properly dated the introduction of the Greek Church into the northern parts of Europe; though a long period elapsed before the prejudices of her pagan subjects finally gave way, and Christianity was firmly established. The accounts of this interesting change are presented to us by monkish writers, and we must be content to receive the simple statements which gratified their own credulity. Awed by the solemn rites of Christian worship, which, while yet a pagan, Olga had witnessed at Kioff, she was curious to be made acquainted with its doctrines. The Greek clergy seized the opportunity to describe in lively colours the wonders of the church of Saint Sophia, and the splendours of the religion taught and practised at Constantinople. Olga resolved to visit the great seat of religion in the West, and receive instruction at what she conceived to be the fountain-head of truth. Delighted with her discoveries she became a Christian. She was instructed and baptized by the patriarch himself, who also became her sponsor at the font. Returning home she hastened to attempt the conversion of her son; but her efforts seemed to fail. The ridicule of his courtiers, and the scorn of a rude soldiery, had more weight than the prayers and tears of his mother; and Vladimir the Great took his seat upon the throne a pagan, addicted to the gross vices of heathenism. But his enterprising spirit began to show itself. Curiosity, or perhaps some higher motive, led him to investigate the different religions of his subjects. In an empire stretching from the shores of the Baltic to the Black Sea in one direction, and from the peaks of the Caucasus to the Carpathian ridge in the other—a territory including Mahometans, Jews, Greeks, and Latins—this was no easy task: he commissioned ten men for the purpose. The worship of the Eastern Church has always been addressed more to the ear than the understanding, and is more fitted to please than to instruct. In Russia it is to this day conducted in the original Slavonic tongue, of which, it may be easily imagined, the hearers can understand but little. The messengers from Kioff chanced to enter the stately church of Saint Sophia while the patriarch was performing the service. The stillness of the worshippers as the swelling notes rolled along the nave, the gorgeous robes of the priests, the rich curtain that divided them from the people, half disclosing the blaze of numberless lamps, the chanting from a thousand voices, and, above all, the solemn sense that seemed to pervade the assembled multitude, all combined to render the scene impressive to the rude strangers. Full of wonder and admiration they returned to Vladimir, and related all that they had witnessed. Their descriptions, aided by the address of the Greek envoy, Constantine, fixed his choice. In Vladimir we must remember the ignorance of a savage, the ferocity of a pagan soldier, and the awakening conscience of a half-taught, yet probably sincere convert, were all combined. He was shown an icon or picture of the day of

judgment; his mind was filled with horror at the representation of unbelievers struggling in the flames of perdition, while the Christians in glory stood gazing at their misery. He resolved at once to be a Christian; and, to prove his sincerity, devoted his sword, in the true spirit of a crusader, to the honour of Christ, and vowed to make war upon the infidels. After besieging Kherson, he married a Greek princess, and was baptized by the name of Basil. Soon after he returned to Kioff, and the baptism of his twelve children followed. An edict was issued for the destruction of idols and idol temples throughout his dominions; and his subjects were commanded to receive baptism, for which the example of Olga had in some measure prepared them. Churches rose up in all directions, the first of which, built of stone, was dedicated to Vladimir himself with great solemnity."

Of the tenets and the organization of the Greek Church in Russia, Mr. Marsden says little, and in this respect his sketch is defective. Of the religious sects which seem to abound, notwithstanding the Imperial superintendence and control in the national Church, some account is given from a 'Sketch of Russian Sects,' published last year at New York. The authorities for the statements in the other parts of the paper are given at the close. The political relations of the Church are thus truly described:—

"The Russian Church, from the days of Peter the Great, would not be inaccurately described as the reflection of the mind and will of the Russian emperor. The intercourse of the Muscovite court and nobility with the rest of Europe imbued the higher classes with scepticism, and this has tended to diminish the little respect they might otherwise feel towards an inferior and illiterate clergy. The Czar is represented, in the catechisms taught to all the children of his empire, as God's viceroy. Under this title he claims absolute submission; his designs assume a sacred character; and the subject who shall dare to thwart him is regarded as accursed both in this world and the next. The late Emperor Nicholas, following the precedent of Peter I., was patriarch as well as emperor; and, when occasion offered, he never hesitated to employ force in defence of his spiritual assumptions. He made thousands of proselytes by the aid of the bayonet and the dungeon. His predecessor, Alexander, encouraged the circulation of the Holy Scriptures; Nicholas forbade their perusal and excluded them from his dominions. The metropolitan archbishops are treated with pompous courtesy by the Czar, but they possess no real power; they are always liable, on the slightest opposition, to be imprisoned in their palaces or exiled into some unknown solitude. All the ecclesiastics swear fidelity to the emperor—fidelity in the military sense. The holy Synod remains to amuse the people, but it is a mere machine of the government; it possesses no independent rights whatever. The priests of inferior order, the village curates, are universally despised, even by the poor. Their ignorance is extreme, and their servility and avarice are proverbial. They are the tools and victims of the boyards; and it is not uncommon to see a priest, who has been publicly whipped like a miserable vagabond, perform his religious services a few hours after, before the parish which witnessed his disgrace. The interest of the Czars has been to keep the people in unreflecting ignorance. Their religion consists in childish superstitions, which the court promotes by its presence and example."

OF books descriptive of the condition and the resources of Russia there has been no lack since the war broke out. Such works are naturally read with much interest in Western Europe, and there is matter in the volume before us which renders it peculiarly acceptable. The author's long residence in Russia has enabled him to attain fuller knowledge of the institutions of the country, and the man-

ners of the people, than has been acquired by passing travellers. The translator, Mr. Wrexall, who is qualified by his own knowledge to bear testimony, and who has been informed of the name of the writer, vouches for the authenticity of the information contained in the book. Much of its matter relates to subjects with which English readers are already familiar, such as the system of serfdom, the tenets of the Greek church, the police system, the naval and military establishments, the bureaucracy, and the general mode of life in the capital and in the provinces. On most of these subjects the statements are confirmatory of those which have been already often made public, as when he speaks of the almost universal corruption of the administration of the country:—

"In glancing at the fleet, we cannot pass over a fault in the Russian body-politic, which casts a shadow over the whole empire, longer than that thrown by the Elbrouss over Caucasus; but as we shall unfortunately never be able to leave it out of sight, we have no occasion to dwell upon it for any length of time now. Thousands of hungry ravens are ever hovering round the amply-filled storehouses of a fleet. Many perish, but many fly off gorged. Purchasers of stolen goods repeatedly suffer for it on the galleys; while the sellers manage to purge themselves of crime. Not long ago, it was discovered that the brother of the rich merchant M—— had purchased Government cordage in Cronstadt,—but why multiply instances, when the Emperor Alexander himself said, 'They would steal my ships of the line, if they knew where they could dispose of them.'

"Embezzlement is carried on upon a grand scale. In one case, a frigate was sent to sea unequipped, and was sunk—for the purpose of disposing of the guns and stores kept back. According to the report sent in, not a man of her was to be found. The confidence which Nicholas placed in the integrity of his officials, induced him to have the stores at Cronstadt unexpectedly inspected. On the night prior to the arrival of the commission, the magazines caught fire. Among the ruins were found the guns belonging to the lost frigate.

"The Emperor Nicholas, with the assistance of his Minister of Finance, certainly succeeded in establishing situations, the holders of which could live on their salary, and support their families, if reason bridled luxury; just as well as the poor honest officer can get through life with many privations, so might the civilian, if there were the same feeling of honesty in this caste. A fearful, ineradicable vice here meets our view. I have known officers whose acquaintance was a pleasure, and I have known them full of the most exalted sentiments. They joined the civil service. In a short time, who could recognise them? The most impudent venality had assumed the place of honesty. But I know, too, among these men, some who firmly adhered to virtue. One, for instance, was appointed to the Customs. He could not follow the prevailing fashion. Within a few months, he said to me, 'I have sent in my resignation; such villany robs a man of his honour—I would sooner live on a dry crust.' And accordingly, the worthy man is now starving, but universally respected. He is a German. Russians! do not accuse me of partiality! I should be only too glad to name similar instances among yourselves; but this virtue I found among you to be a *rara avis* indeed! When I saw men condemned to the knout and the hardest labour for life in Siberia, for a few forged bank notes or silver rubles, I felt sorry for them, while I knew, and was furious at the thought, that this or the other grandee, judge, or clerk, was dishonouring and torturing Crown, justice, families, and individuals with impunity. Perhaps the former had not yet cheated any one; or perhaps the bitterest want had tempted them. The latter fills his pockets with stolen property, and cheats systema-

tically, partly alone, partly in confederacy with others."

The German baron gives a melancholy account of the conscriptions by which the numerical strength of the Russian army is kept up:—

"The Russian conscriptions alone would not allow the population to grow so rapidly as the ministerial tables try to make us believe. Recruits! the word flies through the villages and towns like a harbinger of death! The house-doors are closed as if against a storm. Every family which has a son ripe for being prepared for invincibility, assembles in terror. Possibilities are raked up by which to escape the misfortune, as soon as the ukase, stating how many per cent. of the population must be delivered, appears. Each government afterwards appoints the fearful night for the press-gang—for the future defender of his country is not invited to deliver himself up, but is secretly surprised and captured like a common thief, and thenceforth sharply watched as such. The owner of the estate receives the sealed despatch. Extreme mystery is maintained about its contents. More than the appointed number must always be captured, because it is uncertain whether those selected will be found serviceable. The elders of the parish receive orders from the proprietor, under the seal of secrecy, to tear, on the next night, their brethren's children from their embrace. The news, however, has oozed out beforehand. The elders arrive. All the lads are off—hidden in the forest or elsewhere. But the command is stringent, and the responsibility great. At last, one is captured. After him, another. They must defend against the foe the country they never saw, do not wish to see, and curse in their hearts. Up to the present hour, they have never known a happy day. The sweat pours down their faces ere they can earn the mouthful of bread which just suffices to keep them from starving. But still they are with their family; the sun with which they rise each morning, working hard till it sets, shines on their home, and their toil is for their father's roof.

"The prisoner is taken to the governmental town. There sits the Commission, with the Governor at the head. The victims *pro patriâ* are thrust naked into the committee-room. The physician examines each from the sole of the feet to the crown of the head. The boy is healthy and free from blemish. 'Open your mouth!' The physician peers in with the searching glance of a treasure-seeker. The teeth are without a flaw. The physician is just on the point of giving to the Governor the report, 'Healthy!' But behold! a half imperial, or ducat is lying against the double teeth. In a second the practised medical finger has extracted the gold from the mine. 'No, the fellow is of no use, he has got *caries*—all his teeth rattle; within a month he will not have one left.'

"The lad is free! He bounds again into his blouse and his village. The paltry bribe leaves him among his family till the next tribute. But for these golden teeth, the Governor would have shouted, 'The forehead!' and the recruit had been accepted. In which case his forehead is shaved as clean as his beard, so that he may be recognised if he run away. He stands there like a branded ox on the cattle-market!

"When the appointed number in the government is filled up, the new defenders of the fatherland are sent to the regiments, the tallest among them to the guard. Now begins the training. A soldier first receives the recruit, to give him elementary instruction in military bearing and carriage. For every lesson the pupil must pay at least a glass of brandy, or else he receives tremendous digs in the ribs. A non-commissioned officer then undertakes the humanities. The scholar must learn to balance himself, to stand on one foot and stretch out the other, till it forms a right angle with the thigh. By the time the first classes with these pedal exercises are over, the face of the recruit begins to assume the pale barrack-hue, his cheeks have grown thinner, and he is ready to study in the barrack court the thundering volleys of

'Hurrah!' Now, he presses his musket to heart and cheek, and at last possesses such imperturbability that he does not move a feature; even if a gall-fly takes his nose for an oak-leaf, and leaves a gall-apple in it. Thus the invincible only awaits a foe. Such is the soldier's school in the Baltic provinces, Poland, and the whole of Russia."

Of the educational establishments of Russia there are some acceptable notices:—

"Petersburg has three gymnasia. The scholar, to be received into them, is required to read and write the Russian language. As to the course of instruction for the University, in these preparatory schools, we may judge from the fact that the syllabus of Latin books only contains a Russian translation of Döring's Introduction, the elements of conjugation and declension, and some attempts at construing Sallust. A lad who can read and write his own language, is ripe for the gymnasium—a gymnasiast, who reads Latin, is fitted with his *mensa, mensae, mensar, mensam*, to continue his studies at the University.

"The Petersburg University has only two faculties—philosophical and juridical. Philosophic lecture rooms in a despotic empire, where forty-three millions dare not educate themselves so far as to decline verbs in a foreign language; where the Minister of Public Instruction says of these forty-three millions,—'If they were to distinguish themselves by industry and good conduct, what advantage would they derive from it? These young people, accustomed to a mode of life, of thought and feeling, above their rank, would find the labours they would have to perform on their return home insupportable; and experience has proved that such men either fall into a state of brooding melancholy, or yield to excesses which at last utterly ruin them!'—*Ministerial Report to the Emperor, 1836.*

"In the juridical faculty, Russian law, Roman law, ukase law, and national law, are taught. The lectures are oral, as in all the schools; and a good memory is the chief requisite for an industrious student, as the whole course of study in Russia consists in learning by heart, and repeating word by word the *dicta* of the lecturers, whether the establishment be called academy or *skola*.

"Instruction is imparted by lecturing. They will not teach a boy to think and speak, but to be silent and obey—for the State requires the body and not the mind. The best heads are warehouses filled with goods for which there is no demand; and the best teachers can only deaden the pupil's perceptions. The scholar may gain in weight but not in value, just as geese stuffed with straw and stones are sold on the Petersburg market in winter, as well-fattened birds.

"The Government is equally attentive to the wants and wishes of the weaker sex. Look, for instance, at a young lady, educated in one of the two principal institutes—the *Jungfern Kloster* and the St. Catherine's foundation. She is dressed, fed, and taught according to the will of the Government. The Russian higher and lower nobility know no better education.

"Suppose a German daughter returns from one of these institutions to the bosom of her family. For six years she has not once crossed the threshold of the paternal home. She has grown a stranger to parents and relatives, who were only allowed an hour on Sunday to speak with her, after the manner of the drawing-room. A fawning, stiff Russian being comes out, a natural German girl went in. Ignorant of all domesticity, the poor creature is confounded at the sight of that world in which she has now to live. Her head, filled with phrases, is of no more value than the books in which the phrases are written in an elegant hand, and her heart has remained miserably empty. The mother-tongue is forgotten, in spite of all the grammatical exercises; the daughter only speaks Russ, or can answer in French when required, about weather, music, dancing, and the visits of the Empress and her ladies to the institution.

"O, God!" once complained to me with tears a German mother, whose daughter had come back,

after six years' separation, with first-rate testimonials. 'I do not know what has happened to my Sophie. My heart bleeds when I look at the poverty of her mind and heart. Father, mother, and sisters have become objects of indifference to her. I will never send another child to these institutions, even if we are forced to earn our bread by sewing.'

The political views of the author are such as English readers will generally approve, and we trust that the work will have due influence among the author's own countrymen. The sympathy with Russia in the present war is, we are persuaded, more on the part of the courts than the people of Germany; and the diffusion of information such as this work contains, will strengthen the conviction that the Western Powers are fighting the battle of freedom and civilization against slavery and barbarism.

*Sporting Adventures in the New World; or, Days and Nights of Moose-Hunting in the Pine Forests of Acadia.* By Lieutenant Campbell Hardy, R.A. Hurst and Blackett. LIEUT. HARDY'S sporting adventures are confined to a very small area of the New World, but the country in which he exercised his gun has been passed over somewhat disregardfully by both emigrants and sportsmen. From the barren and irreclaimable appearance of the country round Halifax, many of both classes have been led onwards to the backwoods of Canada when they might have settled with advantage nearer home in Nova Scotia. Before commencing anything like earnest sport, Lieut. Hardy pushed inland up the Restigouche and St. John's Rivers in a canoe voyage of a hundred miles, and the narrative of his day and night encounters, in the autumn of 1853, with the colossal moose deer of Acadia, forms an acceptable addition to that wild and stirring catalogue of hunting adventures for which the forests and prairies of America are famous. Here, in the Acadian fir plantations, treading noiselessly with the moccasined foot on the springy moss, he enjoyed an exhilaration of spirits which none but the true sportsman can appreciate. On his voyage thither with a couple of Indians, some capital salmon-fishing was met with, and not a few amusing adventures in passing the rapids. The falls of St. John are second only to those of Niagara:—

"We all visited the Falls in the afternoon, guided by a very obliging and well-informed resident named Leslie, who said he had formerly belonged to the Royal Artillery, and had been sent here by the Commissariat, when it was a military post. The Falls, as we saw them from the ruins of a once extensive saw-mill, formerly owned by an enterprising man, Sir John Caldwell, were magnificent. The first pitch is over seventy feet in height; and the whole of this mighty river is squeezed between cliffs scarcely fifty yards distant.

"About half-way down the descent, the cascade is broken by a huge projecting mass of rock, which, as our guide told us, was the cause of destruction to many a fine log, when the lumber comes down the river in the spring. Just below, and a little on one side, is a basin, in which is a whirlpool of black, turbulent water.

"Still revolving in this, I saw several fine logs, their ends worn round by continued friction against one another and the rocks. Our guide told us, that now was the time to see the Falls, as the water was low, and the pitch consequently higher; for, he said, when the river was full, the water could not escape fast enough through the narrow and precipitous chasm below, which it filled up, to



the height of some twenty or thirty feet above its present level.

"He said, it was wonderful to see the Falls, when the water was high, and the lumber coming down the river. The huge logs of timber, twenty or thirty feet in length, and three or even four feet square, would be whirled about in the descent as if they were straws. Sometimes they would shoot out clear of the cataract into the air, and fall into the whirlpool; and their sharp crash, as they were snapped in two, either against the projecting mass of rock or each other, might be heard above the deafening roar of the Falls.

"From the Falls we walked through the woods on the edge of the cliffs, to see the minor falls and cascades, which occurred everywhere throughout the mile of tunnel between the Falls and the basin. Some of these were very fine, and the surrounding scene was of the wildest description. We scrambled down a winding path, cut in the cliffs, to the water's edge.

"Round the corner, a few hundred yards up the river, rolled clouds of mist from the Grand Falls, whose sullen roar might be distinctly heard above the sharp rattling of the smaller cascades and rapids, above and below where we stood.

"The towering cliffs which concealed the sun, though it was still many hours high, were composed of contorted masses of blue and red slate and limestone, their strata lying in a most fantastic and irregular manner. Here and there little brooks fell from the top of the precipice, rolling out suddenly from the overhanging bushes, and, long before they reached the river, ending in sheets of spray."

There are several methods of hunting the moose—creeping stealthily on them, calling the bull moose, running them down on snow shoes, bringing them to bay with dogs, and snaring them, and Lieut. Hardy made several unsuccessful attempts before he made a capture:—

"One afternoon, returning to camp, after an unsuccessful trudge on the barrens in hopes of seeing cariboo or moose, enjoying the sun by the edge of the woods, we saw the Shubenacadie mountains, distant about fifteen miles, become gradually enveloped in what appeared to be a thick mist.

"Yes—no—yes. My sake! I am very glad—he snow-fall on mountains—plenty snow to-night—moose-steak for dinner to-morrow," said old Joe in great glee.

"In half an hour the flakes which drifted up with a gradually increasing breeze, fell thickly, and the iron crust which had formed on the surface of the old snow, during the late continuance of frost, relaxed.

"As there was an hour's daylight still to be calculated upon, we went to look after tracks in a swampy valley, covered with thick evergreens, distant about half a mile from camp.

"Here we at once bit off the tracks of two moose. They were quite fresh. 'Gone by only two, three minutes,' said Joe. Just as our excitement was at its pitch, expecting to see the moose every instant, it suddenly fell quite calm again. However, we continued to creep with great caution; and presently, old Joe, after bobbing his head about as he tried to make out some object in the distant forest, beckoned me to come cautiously behind him.

"Moose—there—fire," whispered he, his rugged features enlivened by a savage grin of exultation.

"For some seconds I could not discover the moose. At length, seeing a dark patch looming through some thick bushes at the distance of at least one hundred yards, I let drive with both barrels. On rushing up, we found that both moose had gone off; a few drops of blood on the snow, however, showed that one was wounded.

"I very sorry, but I sure if I try take you more handy, moose start before you get shot," said the Indian.

"Oh, I know it was not your fault, Joe, answered I, 'but I think we shall get him yet.'

"Sartin," said Joe. 'Moose-steak for dinner

to-morrow, too dark to get him to-night, he stiff in mornin'.

"We followed the track of the wounded moose for a short distance, and returned to camp with the expectation of killing him in an hour after breakfast next morning. But our hopes were doomed to disappointment, when on waking next morning, we found that the snow, before so long wanted, had fallen most inopportunistically, completely covering up the tracks of our moose. Tracking him by the blood-marks on the trees, against which he had brushed in his course, for a short distance, we found to our chagrin that he had taken to the open barrens, and we were obliged to leave the poor brute to perish, most probably, from his wound."

At length the hunter made a shot tell. His first moose was a glorious specimen, measuring seven feet from the hoof to the shoulder, and calculated to have been eleven or twelve hundred pounds' weight:—

"We turned into the woods at nearly the same spot that Williams and myself had done the day before, and soon found the fresh track of an immense herd of moose. According to the Indian's computation, there could not have been less than sixteen or seventeen moose in the yard. At length, thought I, I shall get a shot at a moose. After a short consultation, in Micmac, between the Indians, in which the word *team* (moose), accompanied by gesticulations and pointings, occurred frequently, the creeping commenced. Williams, carrying my rifle, took the lead; old Paul, directing me to step in Williams's tracks, followed with his rusty musket.

"The wind now blew steadily, and made melancholy music among the branches of the lofty hemlocks through which the chase led us, drowning the crackling of the frozen snow under our moccasins. Still, our utmost caution was necessary, for the fine ear of the moose will, even in a gale of wind, detect the snapping of the smallest twig, or any noise foreign to the natural sounds of the forest at a great distance.

"Now is the time to see the Indian in his element and on his mettle. See how his eyes glisten, as he bends down and scrutinizes the tall, slender stem of a young maple, the red juicy top of which has been bitten off at the height of some nine or ten feet from the ground. Now he stoops and fingers the track, crumbling the lumps of snow dislodged by the huge foot, to tell the very minutes that have elapsed since the animal stood there.

"On we go, every foot stepping in the track of the leading Indian, our arms employed in carefully drawing aside the branches which impede our progress, and preventing the barrels of our guns from noisy contact with the stems, or boughs of the trees. The dense shrubbery of stunted evergreens, through which we had been worming our way for the last twenty minutes, appeared to be getting thinner, and we were about to emerge into an open space, with clumps of young hardwood interspersed through a lofty grove of pines and hemlocks, when Williams suddenly withdrew his foot from a step which would have exposed him, and stepped behind a young spruce, his excited face beaming with delight as he beckoned me to advance.

"There stood, or reposed, the stupendous animals in every variety of posture. Some were feeding, others standing lazily chewing the cud, and flapping their broad ears, now and then stooping to snatch a mouthful of pure snow. About fifty yards distant, in a clump of tall dead ferns and briars, stood a huge bull, with a splendid coat.

"Levelling at him, I discharged both barrels of my smooth bore, one at and the other behind the shoulder. He dropped, and the rest of the yard, discovering their foes, plunged off through the bushes, knocking over the dead trees in their way as if they had been nine-pins.

"Williams, thrusting my rifle into my hands, pointed to a fine cow, which was the hindmost of the retreating yard. I fired both barrels at her, as she showed herself in an open space between the trees, at about eighty yards distance. A slight

stumble, and an increased acceleration in her speed, told us that she was hit.

"I think we shall get the cow, Paul," said I loading away. No sooner were the words out of my mouth, than the bull, which we thought to have been *hors-de-combat*, scrambling up, dashed off gloriously after the retreating yard on three legs.

"Come along with me, Sir," shouted Paul. 'Williams, you take gentleman's rifle, and go kill cow.'

"We dashed on at full speed after the bull, who was nearly out of sight, and was shaping his course as a wounded moose always does, through the thickest covers of the bush. However, the poor brute left traces of his direction, which gave him little chance of eluding our pursuit, for the blood on the snow lay in a line nearly a foot in breadth.

"A few minutes brought us to where he had been standing to rest and listen, as a circular pool of blood on the snow indicated, and we presently caught a glimpse of him going gallantly up a steep hill about a hundred yards in advance. Several times I dropped on one knee and levelled, but the stems of the hemlocks were so broad and frequent, and my hand so unsteady, that before I could bring the barrels to bear on him, he was again out of sight.

"On arriving at the top of the hill, I was completely used up, as we had followed him at great speed for nearly half a mile. I had lost my cap, and powder flask, bullets, and biscuits jolted out of my pockets, in the frequent rolls-over which I had received, were lying in the snow at intervals between us and the spot where the chase commenced.

"However, we must persevere, for the blood had nearly ceased, and if he escaped in his present wounded condition, he would die.

"As luck would have it, on entering a little barren we saw the moose standing at the other end, evincing no signs of wishing to make a fresh start. Shaking the snow out of the barrels and putting on fresh caps, I dropped him with one ball, and immediately advancing, I fired the second barrel at his head, aiming behind the ear. Down went his head into the snow, and with a convulsive quiver he stretched out dead.

"Well done, skipper," said old Paul, slapping me on the back. 'You done well to-day. A most splendid bull,' continued he, lifting up the huge head of the moose off the snow."

The butchering process over, the necessary steps were taken to secure the meat:—

"March 6th.—The Indians, early this morning, commenced making a hand-sled on which to drag the moose meat over the ice. Chopping out the different pieces roughly, they brought them into camp, and taking out their whittling knives were soon nearly buried in shavings.

"The knife, which the Indian uses in manufacturing anything out of wood, is a beautifully-tempered thin blade, curving backwards at the point. The handle is curved also, and there is a semicircular indentation at the end, for the ball of the thumb to rest in. In cutting and paring, the Indian, pressing the piece of wood firmly against his chest with the left hand holds his knife in his right, back downwards, and cuts towards him. They appear to possess immense power in detaching thick splinters, by this mode of using the knife, while they can pare off long shavings as finely as if a plane had been used.

"The hand-sled, when finished, turned out to be a platform, about two feet broad and four long, resting upon runners, cut out of rock maple, turned up in front, and beautifully smoothed, so as to run well over the ice.

"The Indians returned late, rather fagged, having brought the carcasses of two moose out to the edge of the lake. Joe broke his pipe short off this evening, and I was much amused by his plan of making a wooden stem, in which to insert the bowl. Cutting a cylindrical piece of soft wood, about a foot in length and an inch in diameter, he notched it at one end, so that it appeared like a child's pop-gun, with the ramrod slightly project-

ing. After allowing it to remain for a few minutes in the hot ashes, he took it in his hands, and holding the projecting knob firmly between his teeth, twisted it round several times, and finally drew out a mass of fibres attached to the knob. After finishing up neatly, with a few fantastic devices, the wooden tube, he inserted the remaining stem of his pipe into it. The smoke draws deliciously cool through one of these long wooden stems, and I prevailed on him to exert his ingenuity in making me several.

"March 7th.—The frost this morning was intense, it must have been at least ten or twelve degrees below zero. However, there was no wind to circulate the frozen particles of air, and we were all comfortable enough inside the camp. All hands left the camp after breakfast this morning, to haul out the moose, proceeding first to the spot where my first bull had fallen. We found the carcass intact, though all the offal had been consumed by ravens and moose birds.

"The hide was first taken off, and then after a few chops with the axe, and a dexterous cut or two with the hunting-knife, the huge mass lay in four quarters, weighing nearly two hundred weight a-piece.

"The Indians, each taking one of them on the back, holding on in front by the leg, which bent downwards over their shoulders, marched off with apparent ease, while we, slinging a quarter on a pole resting on our shoulders, followed them, every now and then beseeching them to stop to rest. The remaining moose was served in the same way, and we returned to camp long after dusk, feeling that we had done the hardest day's work yet."

After the foregoing history of the capture of an adult moose, we may give some account of a miniature specimen which Lieut. Hardy managed to domesticate:—

"So tame was my young moose, that he would come into a room and jump several times over chairs, backwards and forwards, for a piece of bread. He had a great *penchant* for tobacco-smoke, which, if puffed in his face, would cause him to rub his head with great satisfaction against the individual.

"His gambols were sometimes very amusing. Throwing back his ears, and dropping the under jaw, he would gallop madly up and down on a grass plot, now and then rearing up on his hind legs, and striking ferociously with his fore feet at the trunks of trees, or anything within reach, varying the amusement by an occasional shy and kick behind at some imaginary object. No palings could keep him from gardens, in which, when not watched, he would constantly be found, revelling on the boughs of current and lilac bushes; in fact, tasting fruit and flowers most indiscriminately. On being approached for the purpose of being turned out, the cunning little brute would immediately lie down, from which position, his hide being as callous as that of a jackass, he could be got up with difficulty.

"In the very hot days of summer, when he appeared to miss the cool plunge in the lake, which these animals, in their wild condition, always indulge in at this time of year, I continually caused buckets of water to be thrown over him.

"Some years ago a tame moose, full grown, was in the possession of a person named Schultz, who keeps the eighteen-mile house from Halifax, on the Truro road, by the side of the Grand Lake. This animal had been, by great trouble, broken in to draw a sledge, which he did with great ease, and at a surprising pace. Being allowed to roam about at large during the day, he would often swim across the Grand Lake to the opposite shore, about two miles distant, whence he would return at the sound of the conch, which is generally used in the interior of Nova Scotia to recall labourers from the woods. I believe he was finally sent to the States, where these animals, in a domesticated state, fetch high prices, exciting almost as great curiosity, though they are still occasionally found in the highlands of New York, as they would in England."

To those who possess a genuine love of

sporting adventures, Lieut. Hardy's volumes will prove of great interest. The ground over which he hunted is entirely new to British sportsmen, and the game is both substantial and palatable.

*My Bondage and my Freedom.* By Frederick Douglass. New York: Miller. London: Trübner and Co.

THE facts narrated in the first part of this autobiography are of the painful kind with which both historical narrative and literary art have made every reader too familiar. The early part of the life of Frederick Douglass was spent in American bondage, in the most severe and repulsive forms. As to the mode by which he at length made his escape he keeps silence, on the ground that it might close one avenue by which some brother in suffering might clear himself of the chains of slavery. This generous consideration is, however, almost rendered needless by the horrid enactments of the Fugitive Slave Act, by which the Free States of the Union have agreed to allow slaves to be re-delivered up to bondage. A greater step of retrogression in principle and in civilization does not appear in all history. In common with "Old England," the Free States of America could till lately boast that the slave that touched their soil became thenceforth a freeman; but it is not so now, and the disgrace of upholding slavery belongs to the whole Union. Fortunately for Frederick Douglass, his freedom has been purchased by friends in England, and attested by legal documents, else this act would hand him over again to slavery. For some years he has devoted himself with unwearied energy and great ability to the advancement of the Abolition cause, formerly by lecturing, and now as editor of a newspaper favourably known in this country as well as in America. From one of the latest orations delivered by the author, and partly reported in the appendix to this volume, we quote some sentences expressing his opinion as to the progress of the Abolition movement, and the influence exerted in its behalf by literature:—

"I have taken a sober view of the present anti-slavery movement. I am sober, but not hopeless. There is no denying, for it is everywhere admitted, that the anti-slavery question is the great moral and social question now before the American people. A state of things has gradually been developed, by which that question has become the first thing in order. It must be met. Herein is my hope. The great idea of impartial liberty is now fairly before the American people. Anti-slavery is no longer a thing to be prevented. The time for prevention is past. This is great gain. When the movement was younger and weaker—when it wrought in a Boston garret to human apprehension, it might have been silently put out of the way. Things are different now. It has grown too large—its friends are too numerous—its facilities too abundant—its ramifications too extended—its power too omnipotent, to be snuffed out by the contingencies of infancy. A thousand strong men might be struck down, and its ranks still be invincible. One flash from the heart-supplied intellect of Harriet Beecher Stowe could light a million camp-fires in front of the embattled host of slavery, which not all the waters of the Mississippi, mingled as they are with blood, could extinguish. The present will be looked to by after coming generations, as the age of anti-slavery literature—when supply on the gallop could not keep pace with the ever-growing demand—when a picture of a negro on the cover was a help to the sale of a book—when conservative lyceums and other American literary associations began first to select their orators for dis-

tinguished occasions from the ranks of the previously despised abolitionists. If the anti-slavery movement shall fail now, it will not be from outward opposition, but from inward decay. Its auxiliaries are everywhere. Scholars, authors, orators, poets, and statesmen give it their aid. The most brilliant of American poets volunteer in its service. Whittier speaks in burning verse to more than thirty thousand, in the 'National Era.' Your own Longfellow whispers, in every hour of trial and disappointment, 'labour and wait.' James Russell Lowell is reminding us that 'men are more than institutions.' Piermont cheers the heart of the pilgrim in search of liberty, by singing the praises of 'the north star.' Bryant, too, is with us; and though chained to the car of party, and dragged on amidst a whirl of political excitement, he snatches a moment for letting drop a smiling verse of sympathy for the man in chains. The poets are with us. It would seem almost absurd to say it, considering the use that has been made of them, that we have allies in the Ethiopian songs; those songs that constitute our national music, and without which we have no national music. They are heart songs, and the finest feelings of human nature are expressed in them. 'Lucy Neal,' 'Old Kentucky Home,' and 'Uncle Ned,' can make the heart sad as well as merry, and can call forth a tear as well as a smile. They awaken the sympathies for the slave, in which anti-slavery principles take root, grow, and flourish. In addition to authors, poets, and scholars at home, the moral sense of the civilized world is with us. England, France, and Germany, the three great lights of modern civilization, are with us, and every American traveller learns to regret the existence of slavery in his country."

From the autobiography we quote two incidents illustrating the feeling towards free coloured men of their white fellow-citizens:—

"Riding from Boston to Albany, a few years ago, I found myself in a large car, well filled with passengers. The seat next to me was about the only vacant one. At every stopping place we took in new passengers, all of whom, on reaching the seat next to me, cast a disdainful glance upon it, and passed to another car, leaving me in the full enjoyment of a whole form. For a time, I did not know but that my riding there was prejudicial to the interest of the railroad company. A circumstance occurred, however, which gave me an elevated position at once. Among the passengers on this train was Gov. George N. Briggs. I was not acquainted with him, and had no idea that I was known to him. Known to him, however, I was, for upon observing me, the governor left his place, and making his way toward me, respectfully asked the privilege of a seat by my side; and upon introducing himself, we entered into a conversation very pleasant and instructive to me. The despised seat now became honoured. His excellency had removed all the prejudice against sitting by the side of a negro; and upon his leaving it, as he did on reaching Pittsfield, there were at least one dozen applicants for the place. The governor had, without changing my skin a single shade, made the place respectable which before was despicable.

"A similar incident happened to me once on the Boston and New Bedford railroad, and the leading party to it has since been governor of the state of Massachusetts. I allude to Col. John Henry Clifford. Lest the reader may fancy I am aiming to elevate myself, by claiming too much intimacy with great men, I must state that my only acquaintance with Col. Clifford was formed while I was his hired servant, during the first winter of my escape from slavery. I owe it him to say, that in that relation I found him always kind and gentlemanly. But to the incident. I entered a car at Boston, for New Bedford, which, with the exception of a single seat, was full, and found I must occupy this, or stand up, during the journey. Having no mind to do this, I stepped up to the man having the next seat, and who had a few parcels on the seat, and gently asked leave to take a seat by his side. My fellow-passenger gave me a



look made up of reproach and indignation, and asked me why I should come to that particular seat. I assured him, in the gentlest manner, that of all others this was the seat for me. Finding that I was actually about to sit down, he sang out, 'O! stop, stop! and let me get out!' Saiting the action to the word, up the agitated man got, and sauntered to the other end of the car, and was compelled to stand for most of the way thereafter. Half way to New Bedford, or more, Col. Clifford, recognising me, left his seat, and not having seen me before since I had ceased to wait on him, (in everything except hard arguments against his pro-slavery position,) apparently forgetful of his rank, manifested, in greeting me, something of the feeling of an old friend. This demonstration was not lost on the gentleman whose dignity I had, an hour before, most seriously offended. Col. Clifford was known to be about the most aristocratic gentleman in Bristol county; and it was evidently thought that I must be somebody, else I should not have been thus noticed by a person so distinguished. Sure enough, after Col. Clifford left me, I found myself surrounded with friends; and among the number, my offended friend stood nearest, and with an apology for his rudeness, which I could not resist, although it was one of the lamest ever offered. With such facts as these before me—and I have many of them—I am inclined to think that pride and fashion have much to do with the treatment commonly extended to coloured people in the United States."

That there should appear in the writings of Mr. Douglass, as well as in his public conduct, some points not to be approved, is only to be expected from one whose early life was spent under every disadvantage. The distinguished position reached by Mr. Douglass, in spite of many depressing influences, is most honourable to his character and his talents, and presents a conspicuous instance of the capabilities of the oppressed race for whose social and intellectual improvement he is a zealous and able advocate.

*A Visit to the Vaudois of Piedmont.* By Edward Baines. Traveller's Library, No. 88. Longman and Co.

In a recent number we recorded the death of the Rev. Dr. Gilly, the zealous and influential friend of the Vaudois. In 1823 he first visited the valleys, and in the following year published a narrative of his excursion, with notices of the history, sufferings, doctrines, and literature of the people of Piedmont. Having revisited the valleys in 1829, he published in 1831 another volume, entitled 'Waldensian Researches during a Second Visit to the Vaudois of Piedmont: with an Introductory Inquiry into the Antiquity and Purity of the Waldensian Church.' By these works Dr. Gilly drew the attention of the British public to the history of the Vaudois, and gained for them the sympathy of other Protestant churches. By his exertions a subscription was made for establishing a college at La Tour, and for otherwise aiding the educational and religious institutions of the Vaudois. Of late years, several English travellers have brought interesting reports of the condition of the Piedmontese of these regions. In the autumn of last year Mr. Baines visited the valleys, and it was at Dr. Gilly's urgent request that he has published his valuable and welcome narrative in the present form. Mr. Baines gives a very gratifying account of the condition of the Vaudois churches, and of the people of the valleys, under the now liberal government of Piedmont. He says that—

"The Vaudois are a people whose present cha-

acter is worthy of their past history. It may be said with strict truth that crime, or offence against the laws, is scarcely known among the Vaudois. Some taint of irreligion and immorality is said to have been left by the French, who for several years were masters of the valleys; but this has been removed, and my impression is that a more moral community is scarcely to be found in Europe. Intelligent, kind, industrious, temperate, virtuous, and loyal, they adorn their religious profession, and give no handle to those who, having so deeply injured them, would fain excuse themselves by calumniating their victims."

The present number of Vaudois in the valleys is about 22,000, besides whom there are from four to five thousand Roman-catholic inhabitants.

"The Vaudois are well organized for religious and educational purposes. There are fifteen parishes, each of which has a pastor and a central place of worship called a 'temple,' besides a few outlying chapels in the more extensive parishes. There are altogether twenty-nine ministers, including pastors and evangelists. The form of church government is Presbyterian, and the consistory of each parish is composed of elders elected by the inhabitants, with the pastor as president. The synod, which consists of all the pastors, with lay delegates, meets every four or five years, and also on extraordinary occasions. Of late their pastors have been educated at Geneva, Lausanne, or Berlin; but it is intended ere long to have a department for ministerial training in the college at La Tour, which is at present a normal school for the training of schoolmasters, and also a high school. At this college there are sixteen students in the normal department, and ninety-three in the school; and for the various branches of instruction there are eight professors. A certain degree of advancement is required in the attainments of the pupils admitted to the college; all are required to understand both French and Italian. There are no less than 169 schools in the valleys—one public school in each parish, and every village and hamlet having also its school for the instruction of boys and girls. Many of these schools are only taught in the winter months, when the snow lies eight or ten feet deep in the valleys and on the mountains, rendering out-of-doors employment impracticable. In these months, travelling on the steep hill-sides is so dangerous, that the women are often prevented from going to the temples, and then religious services are held in the school-rooms. The schools are under the management of the churches, and the schoolmasters are appointed by the pastors and elders. Up to last year they were visited by a Government inspector; but on the petition of the Vaudois he has been removed, and the schools are now inspected by one of the Professors at the College at La Tour. The schools are partly maintained from the budget of the provinces, with occasional grants from the general Government. These grants, as may be imagined, are quite of modern date, and the schools were formerly maintained in a considerable measure by subscriptions from Holland; in which country, ever since the days of William III., both the government and the people have been in the habit of sending aid to the Vaudois for their schools and their poor. In like manner the English Government has granted, since the time of Cromwell, but regularly since that of William and Mary, sums in aid of the salaries of the pastors (with the exception of the period when Piedmont was under the Government of France); and no small amount of contributions towards the erection and repair of their temples and schools has flowed in from private bounty in England, Holland, Switzerland, and the United States."

The generous services of a veteran English officer, General Beckwith, who has resided in Piedmont ever since the peace of 1815, are justly lauded by Mr. Baines. The General has assisted in building or repairing more than eighty schools in the valleys, and he is

greatly beloved by the whole population, on account of his unwearied efforts for their welfare. He now resides at Turin, where he has lately had the satisfaction, greatly through his own exertions, of witnessing the establishment of a Protestant church for the Waldensian residents in that city. The alliance of the Sardinian Government with the Western Powers in the present war has given new importance to our relations with a people in whom Englishmen have felt deep interest since the days of Cromwell, who interfered to shield them from persecution, and of Milton, whose noble sonnet has immortalized their sufferings and their virtues. The narrative of Mr. Baines' visit will, we trust, attract increased attention to the people of the valleys, and several ways are pointed out in which sympathy may take a practical and useful form for their benefit.

#### NOTICES.

*Lectures on the History of the French Revolution.* By the late Professor William Smyth. New Edition. 2 Vols. H. G. Bohn.

IN his Standard Library, Mr. Bohn gives this month volume first of a new and revised edition of Professor Smyth's Lectures on the French Revolution. The author's last corrections are here incorporated, and an additional lecture, found among the professor's papers, is prefixed to the work, the subject being on the General Causes of the French Revolution. This lecture apparently is a continuation of the reflections in lecture fourteenth, on the Necessity of Executive Power, the want of which, or weakness of which, admitted of the violence of the mob getting way beyond the reach of check. From the new lecture we quote one or two sentences, in which the views of Professor Smyth are strikingly illustrated:—"I mentioned an anecdote in my lecture the other day, told by Bailly, which will, in a few words, for ever keep present to your minds the two great opposite and obvious lessons of the French Revolution—lessons which I have repeated, and shall for ever have to repeat, a thousand and a thousand times. 'Why are you not satisfied,' said one of the ministers to Bailly, 'with this declaration of the king (the declaration of the 23rd June)? Had the king made one like this ten years ago, would it not have been received with enthusiasm?' 'Oh, yes,' replied Bailly, 'no doubt—ten years ago.' 'Why, what then does the Assembly want or wish?' 'To do everything itself,' returned Bailly; 'not for you to do it.' What is the conclusion from this anecdote? It is evidently this—concessions are put off by the rulers, till the reformers take the management into their own hands; the former are unreasonable, till the latter become so too, and both perish, certainly the former. \* \* \* The failure of the Revolution, and the crimes and calamities by which it was attended, have enabled those who love not liberty to confound them together, have indisposed even the wise and the good to all projects of reform. This, however, is to run into an extreme on the other side; and this observation, though so very obvious, has so little effect on our conduct, that I have taken every pains to illustrate the more early portion of the Revolution. \* \* \* The political faults and mistakes of rulers and governors are easily seen—original selfishness, and, if necessary, cruelty; but it is not so easy to observe with accuracy the faults and mistakes of the patriots of a country. The great fault, in the instance of the French patriots, was that of not acting in a spirit of conciliation with the Court. \* \* \* The unfortunate Louis, it is understood, was often reading the history of the great struggle in our own country, the history of the times of Charles I. It does not appear to me that this was sufficiently done by the virtuous patriots of the Tiers Etat. With us, the love of civil liberty, by the assistance of the religious principle, became the most violent enthusiasm; in France, the same love



of civil liberty, assisted by the hope and ardour of the new opinions, became the most violent enthusiasm also; but the leaders neither observed the frightful nature of all enthusiasm, nor the different character of the two monarchs—their own temptations to violent counsels—their real security while Louis was their king in his personal character. It is very true that the faults and mistakes of the popular leaders may be explained, may be understood, may be even excused, but they must be for ever lamented, and they must not be concealed that they may not be repeated; their situation was novel, the times were very extraordinary, the new opinions were very intoxicating, the proceedings of the Court were, even after the meeting of the States General, very injudicious and exasperating, the power of the Court was naturally overrated, the applauses of the people and of the country were very animating; vanity was easily mistaken for patriotism, and rashness for wisdom. Of Professor Smyth's lectures we need only say to those of our readers who may not know them, that they contain a lucid historical narrative, and a sound political review of all the leading events of the French Revolution. What has been done by Carlyle in dramatic style, Professor Smyth gives in didactic form.

*Olga; or, Russia in the Tenth Century.* An Historical Poem. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.; James Nisbet and Co.

THE story of the conversion of Olga, the widow of the son of Rurik, to Christianity, will be found in an extract from one of the books noticed in the opening review of this paper. This portion of Russian history has been taken as the theme of a descriptive poem in blank verse, from which we give the following passage:—

"Again the Kieffians hail'd their lord's return,  
Again Malusia had a feast prepared;  
The welcome louder, and the feast more rich,  
For added joy that Olga too was come.  
Sterlet, and herring, pike, barbel, and carp,  
Sudak, and scabdia, mackerel, salmon, trout,  
With roasted sturgeon, and variety  
Of other fish, in endless ways prepared,  
Fresh, smoked, or salted;—water-melons next  
To whet the appetite for further course;  
Rich soups of divers kinds; and varied meats,  
With early venison smoking on the board;  
Red geese from Caspian; fowl both wild and tame,  
And fitting sauce appropriate to each.  
Raw turnip there was served, a favourite dish;  
While lighter courses last ensued, to close  
The solid meal with more ethereal fare,  
As native manna, soft and nutritive;  
Untold assortment, too, of finest fruits,  
From dark-hued produce of the mulberry-tree,  
And brighter-tinted cranberries, juicier far,  
To pines, and grapes, and oranges, and pears,  
And rare translucent apples from Kitai.  
Iced wines were plentiful, and hydromel,  
In draughts more copious than the youthful head  
Without inebriation might imbibe;  
Though elder chiefs, to such potations prone,  
With steady hand their parting goblet drained,  
While such the scene in palace-banquet-room,  
Not less the joy in humbler ranks of life.  
When parents welcomed back their soldier-lads  
Or aged veterans reached their humble homes,  
Delightful was the stir to young Iván,  
From scenes of rural life transplanted now  
To live thenceforward in a crowded street.  
At door-step Feodor sat, his leisure hour  
Employed in plaiting matted shoes of bark  
From stems of three young linden-trees procured,  
His neighbour Michael singless prepared,  
And litchyocolla more gelatinous;  
The best from sterlet's or belluga's sounds,  
Which washed, and dried, and outer skin removed,  
Show inner membrane of a glossy white,  
Reflecting off the rich prismatic hues;  
This curled in rolls, secured with wooden pegs,  
When left to dry, assumed the destined shape,  
And found a ready sale throughout the year.  
Not such alone the work this trader plied,  
But turned to good account belluga's spawn,  
Or spawed of salmon, mullet, sturgeon, pike;  
And for caviar increased demand he found.  
As those increased who kept the Grecian fasts,  
Thus worldly interest swayed with Michael first,  
To predispose him toward the Christian faith;  
But, with the opening of the outward ear,  
A heavenly voice had reached his inmost soul:  
He learned to crave superior fadeless bliss,  
And sought his treasure in the world to come.  
His business prospered, and his children thrived,  
Yet all things worked his good: for earthly joy  
But knit his soul the closer unto Him,  
From whom descended every perfect gift,  
And whose reflected smile was traced in each,  
With humble, thankful, calm, rejoicing heart.

Much communing with Feodor he enjoyed,  
With whom in concert to the house of God  
He often went; and sweet their counsel was,  
As now they talked of high and holy hopes,  
And now discoursed of duty's varied claims.  
A closer bond of late had linked their souls,  
Since mutual contract for their children made,  
The infant Maria in her cradle trothed  
To Feodor's eldest boy, the blithe Iván.  
How vain for purblind man to stretch his gaze,  
And seek through dark futurity to map  
With ease and certainty his onward steps;  
Unknowing how his path may yet be hedged,  
And he constrained to quit his flowery track  
For rough and lonely road with thorns bestrewn!"

The historical materials of the poem are derived from the best sources, and the author has contrived to introduce many interesting notices of the institutions, customs, and character of the Russians at the period to which the book relates.

*Short Sketches of some Notable Lives.* By John Campbell Colquhoun. Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.

THE notable lives sketched in this volume are those of John Howard, John Fox, William Penn, George Whitfield, and John Wesley. It will be seen that the book chiefly belongs to the class of ecclesiastical biography. The author frankly states that he does not lay claim to the merit of original research, but that he has obtained his materials from the best authorities. The result is a most valuable book of biography for popular reading, subjects of more than ordinary interest being treated in an attractive style, and the historical and practical lessons of the notable lives ably and earnestly pointed out. A more instructive and agreeable book could not be put into the hands of young people, at once for informing the mind and influencing the character.

#### SUMMARY.

To the literary and historical memorials of the siege of Sebastopol a most acceptable addition is the *Report of the Committee of the Crimean Army Fund*, signed and addressed to the subscribers by the chairman, the Earl of Ellesmere, embodying the report of the honorary agents in the Crimea, the Hon. Algernon Egerton and J. Tower, Esq., and of the secretary to the agency, George Brackenbury, Esq. A full and most satisfactory account is given of the proceedings and results of this agency, by which private benevolence and patriotism as far as possible supplemented the scanty provision of the Government officials for the support and comfort of the troops last winter. A list is given of the subscribers and donors, and of the various articles sent to the stores of the fund. To the Report are appended letters from the military authorities, bearing testimony to the good service rendered by the Fund, and to the zeal and efficiency of its agents. That of Lord Raglan, dated May 22, speaks in most handsome terms of the benefit conferred on the army during the winter, and of the abundant labours of Mr. Egerton and Mr. Tower, and all associated with them in the good work. Additional information as to the real state of matters in the camp during the months of December and January, will be found in the reprint of an account by an American visitor, R. C. Macormick, Jun., of New York, *Two Months in and about the Camp of Sebastopol* (Westley). One of the officers frequently mentioned in the narrative, whose guest the writer was in the camp, Lieutenant D. A. Macgregor, of the 97th, has since perished in the disastrous assault on the Redan, on the 8th Sept., and the book closes with a brief testimony to his high character, which all who knew him will read with sympathy.

Under the title of *Chemical Field Lectures*, is given, in Bohn's Scientific Library, a familiar exposition of the chemistry of agriculture, addressed to farmers, by Dr. Julius Stöckhardt, Professor at Tharand, in Saxony, translated, with notes, by Professor Henfrey, F.R.S., with a supplement on irrigation with liquid manure, by J. J. Mechi, Esq. The names of Professor Henfrey and Mr. Mechi sufficiently guarantee both the scientific and practical value of the work, which is remarkably complete in its information and clear in its

style, forming an excellent popular manual of agricultural chemistry.

In the British Classics the concluding volume appears of the edition of *Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, edited by an English Churchman, of which we cannot speak critically without occupying larger space than at present we can give to the subject. The variorum notes throughout the work, and the copious index in the present volume, add greatly to the value of the edition.

In Bohn's Classical Library is given Vol. III. of *Pliny's Natural History*, translated, with notes and illustrations, by the late Dr. Bostock, F.R.S., and H. T. Riley, Esq., B.A.; this part of the work by Mr. Riley.

A collection of papers *On the Reformation of Young Offenders*, edited by Jellinger Symons, Esq., Barrister-at-Law (Routledge and Co.), comprises the best pamphlets, articles, and speeches that have been delivered on the subject, along with a valuable paper by Mr. Symons, read before the Society of Arts, 'On Juvenile Crime, and how it affects Commerce,' with report of the discussion that took place after the paper was read. Among the articles printed, or reprinted, in this volume, are notices by Mr. Hall, Recorder of Doncaster, of visits to Mettray and other foreign reformatory institutions; an account of the farm-school at Redhill, by the Rev. Sydney Turner, the resident chaplain; and papers on reformatory schools, by Miss Carpenter, of Bristol, and B. Lloyd Baker, Esq. It is a volume of most instructive and practical materials on the whole subject of juvenile crime, its remedy and prevention.

In a series of Books for the Country (Routledge and Co.), a treatise on *The Kitchen Garden*, by Eugene Sebastian Delamer, contains plain and practical directions for the culture of all manner of roots, vegetables, herbs, and fruits, in the open ground in this country. The works of Lindley, Hooker, Knight, Paxton, Loudon, and other masters of horticulture, as well as the 'Transactions of the London Horticultural Society,' and the files of 'The Gardeners' Chronicle,' have been consulted and used in the preparation of the manual.

In Routledge's shilling series of novels, appears a tale by an American writer of much promise, *The Hidden Path*, by Marion Harland, author of 'Alone.' The story bears marks of considerable power, and, what is better, of a hearty and genial spirit, the improving influence of which will be felt by the reader.

Two lectures, on *English Roots, and the Derivation of Words from the Ancient Anglo-Saxon*, by Edward Newenham Hoare, Dean of Waterford (John W. Parker and Son), were delivered to the members of the Waterford Mechanics' Scientific Institute, of which the Dean is one of the Vice-Presidents. Of the very interesting etymological and philological researches, which Horne Tooke and Richardson have made known to scholars, this little treatise gives a useful popular statement. The special consideration of words from the Anglo-Saxon, the author says, was suggested by the perusal of the scarce old work of Verstegan, first published in 1605, in which there is much curious information about the derivation of words, particularly of proper names, and titles of honour and office. There is much curious and instructive matter in Dean Hoare's lectures.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Ashley's (J. M.) *Relations of Science*, 12mo, cloth, 6s.  
Bailey's (P. J.) *Mystic*, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
Baker's (S. W.) *Wanderings in Ceylon*, 8vo, cloth, 15s.  
Becker's (K. F.) *German Grammar*, 12mo, cloth, 5s.  
Bird's (J.) *Vegetable Charcoal*, 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Blake's (B.) *Infidelity Inexcusable*, 8vo, cloth, 4s.  
Bose's (Mrs.) *Niece*, 18mo, cloth, 2s.  
Carlyle, (T.) *Selections from the Writings of*, p. 8vo, cl. 7s.  
Chapman's (Rev. D.) *Twenty Speeches*, &c., post 8vo, cl. 5s.  
Coleridge's (H.) *Northern Worthies*, 3 vols., fcap., cloth, 10s.  
Cooke's (J. E.) *Ellie*, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Craigie's (R.) *The Man Christ Jesus*, 12mo, cloth, 6s.  
Creasy's *Eminent Etionians*, imperial 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Curetton's (Rev. W.) *Spicilegium Lyricum*, royal 8vo, 9s.  
Desprez's (Rev. P. S.) *Apocalypse*, 2nd edition, 8vo, cl. 12s.  
Doctor Antonio, post 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.

Drummond's (Mrs.) Lucy Seymour, new ed., 18mo, cl., 2s. 6d.  
 Finch's (Lady E.) Sampler, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.  
 Glen's Consolidated Orders of Poor Law Commissioners, 9s.  
 Gough's (H.) New Testament Quotations, 8vo, cloth, 16s.  
 Hardwick's Photographic Chemistry, 12mo, new ed., 6s. 6d.  
 Hermitage's Poems, 1st series, fcap., cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Hopkins's (B.) Elodie, 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Keane's (D.) Nuisance Removal Act, 12mo, boards, 1855, 3s.  
 Lardner's Handbook of Natural Philosophy, Mechanics, 5s.  
 Lister's (J. B.) How to Succeed, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 2s.  
 Lawer's (E. W.) Metropolitan Building Act, 12mo, 3s. 6d.  
 Macaulay's (Rt. Hon. T. B.) Hist. of England, Vol. 3 & 4, £1 16s.  
 McCormac's (H.) on Pulmonary Consumption, 8vo, cl., 3s. 6d.  
 Millicent, 3 vols., post 8vo, cloth, £1 11s. 6d.  
 Nicholls's (W. A.) Natural Drawing Master, royal, 8vo, 9s.  
 Procrastination; or, the Vicar's Daughter, 4th ed., 3s. 6d.  
 Russell's War, post 8vo, cloth, new edition, 6s.  
 Schneider's (C. H.) New Practical French Reader, 3s. 6d.  
 Sicknes; Its Trials, &c., 6th edition, 12mo, cloth, 5s.  
 Snedley's (F. E.) Fortunes of the Colville Family, 2s. 6d.  
 Smith's (T.) Metropolis Local Management Act, 12mo, 8s.  
 Stories and Lessons on the Catechism, Vol. 2, 12mo, 5s.  
 Thomason's (G. T.) Memories, 4to, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
 Vaur's Nineveh, 4th edition, post 8vo, cloth, 8s.  
 Wheeler's (T.) Life, &c. of Herodotus, 2 vols. p. 8vo, £1 1s.

#### COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

THE principle of employment and of advancement in the public service by merit instead of patronage is gaining ground. The following document, although referring to a limited field of occupation, is extremely important, as indicating a readiness to adopt the system of competitive examination:—

"Committee of Council on Education,  
 Downing-street, London, Oct. 11.

"Rev. Sir,—I am directed by the Lord President of the Council to inquire whether, under the following circumstances, and subject to the following conditions, you are disposed to recommend to his Lordship a candidate for a supplemental clerkship of the third class in this department.

"The Lord President has at present at his disposal several of these clerkships. The emoluments and prospects, as well as the necessary qualifications of a clerk, may be understood from the following description:—

"There are in this department from thirty to forty supplemental clerks, who are divided into three classes:—

"1. Five clerks at 180*l.* per annum, rising by 10*l.* per annum to 250*l.*

"2. Seven clerks at 130*l.* per annum, rising by 10*l.* per annum to 180*l.*

"3. The rest at 80*l.* per annum, rising by 5*l.* per annum to 130*l.* per annum.

"Promotion from one class to another, as vacancies occur, is awarded by the Lord President according to the merit of those who have reached the maximum salary of the clerks below.

"A. The age of a candidate must be not less than 18 nor more than 25 years.

"B. His handwriting must be clear, rapid, neat, and of that even stroke which allows a legible copy to be taken by pressure.

"C. He must be an expert arithmetician, understanding the principles and practice of book-keeping, able to calculate averages and percentages, to make abstracts, summaries, and digests, and to write out in good English a fair document from short notes and minutes.

"D. He must possess a habit of steady application, a love of order, a clear methodical head, strong health, and a good temper.

"You would, of course, put forward no one whom you could not with good reason recommend as possessing the essential qualification of a good character and disposition.

"The Lord President would be glad if among the scholars of the Wandsworth Trade School there were a young man whom, after a careful inquiry and selection, you could confidently recommend as a candidate.

"You might send him, with his testimonials, certificates of age and health, and full particulars of his antecedents, to this office any day between two and three o'clock.

"If approved, *primâ facie*, by the officers whom the Lord President will direct to see the candidate and inquire respecting him, his name will be entered on a special list of candidates who will be sent to the 'Civil Service Commissioners,' to be examined by them in accordance with the terms of

Her Majesty's order in Council of the 21st of May, 1855.

"This special list will contain the names of about three times as many candidates as there are vacancies. Those candidates whom the commissioners find to be deficient in the prescribed minimum of the qualifications which I have explained to you will be at once rejected. The remainder will be subjected by the commissioners to a further examination which will be competitive; and they who are finally placed by the commissioners at the head of the list as having done best in that competitive examination will be at once appointed by the Lord President, on probation, in the usual manner, to fill the vacancies. The probation in this department is not merely nominal; it is real and strict, and extends to all the qualifications of a clerk—moral, mental, and physical.

"I shall be obliged to you if you will let me know at your earliest convenience whether you are likely to recommend a candidate.

"The list must be closed before the 25th of this month.

"The examination by the Commissioners of the Civil Service will be held at the beginning of November.

"I have the honour to be, Rev. Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"HARRY CHESTER.

"The Rev. James Booth, LL.D., F.R.S.  
 Trade School, Wandsworth."

In connexion with this subject, we may here refer to the regulations recently issued from the War Department, as to the engineer and artillery appointments for 1855. For comparison with the details of the Indian Civil Service examination, of which we offered an analysis two weeks since, we give the regulations, so far as they relate to the competition:—

"The appointments will be determined by the results of a competing examination, to be held in January next, on a day to be hereafter named.

"No candidate will be eligible for examination who does not exhibit a reasonable proficiency in drawing, namely, in elementary geometrical drawing, including the use of drawing instruments; and in either machinery, architectural, engineering, or landscape drawing.

"The subjects of the competing examination will be:—

"Mathematics—Pure and mixed, to which 3500 marks will be allotted, of which one-third will be given to problems.

"Language, Literature, Geography, and History of Ancient Rome—1000 marks.

"Ditto of Ancient Greece—750 marks.

"Ditto of France, 1000 marks.

"Ditto of Germany, 750 marks. (Combined written and *vidæ voce* examination.)

"English Language and Literature, Composition, History, and Geography—1250 marks.

"Experimental Sciences—Chemistry, Heat, Electricity, including Magnetism—1000 marks.

"Natural Sciences—Mineralogy and Geology—500 marks.

"Moral and Political Sciences—1000 marks.

"The examination in mathematics will precede that in the other subjects, and the number of candidates will be reduced to two-thirds of the total numbers by the result of this examination.

"Each candidate may select from the other subjects of examination those in which he desires to be examined, but no candidate will be allowed to count the marks gained in any subject, unless those marks should at least amount to one-sixth of the total number of marks allotted to that subject.

"The examiners will be appointed by the Secretary of State for the War Department.

"Every candidate must transmit to the Secretary of State,—

"1. An extract from the register of his baptism, or, in default of that, a certificate of age verified by affidavit.

"2. A certificate of good moral character, signed by a clergyman of the parish or of the persuasion to which he belongs, and by the tutor or head of

the school or college at which he has received his education, for at least two years, or such other proof of good moral character as will be satisfactory to the Secretary of State.

"3. A statement of the subjects of examination, as far as the above regulations leave a selection to the candidate, in which he may desire to be examined."

The obvious reflection suggested by these regulations is, Why should the competition be confined to the scientific branches of the service? Why should not education and merit, instead of favouritism and wealth, be the grounds of appointment for every part of the British army?

#### THE GREENWICH OBSERVATORY REPORT.

THE Greenwich Observatory is one of the institutions of which every Englishman may feel justly proud. The work done there, without attracting much public notice, bears no inconsiderable share in sustaining and extending the commercial resources as well as the scientific reputation of the country. Apart also from scientific results and their application to navigation and other pursuits, there are many historical and literary associations connected with the place from the days of Flamsteed and Halley down to our own times. How interesting, for example, to read in Humboldt's memoir of Arago the account of the first discovery of the phenomena of rotation-magnetism, when these two illustrious savans were on a spot well known to London citizens, the slope of Greenwich Hill. "M. Arago," says Humboldt, "while engaged with me on the slope of Greenwich Hill, in determining the magnetic intensity, by the number of vibrations performed in a given time by a dipping needle, made the important remark, which was exclusively his own, that a magnetic needle which has been set in motion comes to rest sooner when placed in proximity to other substances, metallic or non-metallic, than when at a distance from them. From this first remark, rendered fruitful by ingenious combinations, he was led in 1825 to explain the phenomena produced by the rotation of disks acting on needles at rest, as well as the influence which water, ice, and glass exercise on magnetic needles. The excitement of magnetism by motion became a subject of warm discussions between Nobili, Antinori, Seebeck, Barlow, Sir John Herschel, Babbage, and Baumgartner, which lasted for six years, or until 1831, when the brilliant discovery of Faraday linked all the phenomena of magnetism by rotation to the fruitful principles of induced currents. Such is the character of the onward progress of the sciences at those periods, unhappily too short, in which they advance with a rapid step, in which ideas tend towards increased generalization, and the minds of the students of nature are gradually rising towards a higher order of conceptions." While scientific men look with peculiar feelings on scenes rendered memorable by such associations, the results of their researches have universal interest. Our readers may like to know what subjects have recently been chiefly occupying the attention of the Astronomer Royal who now ably directs this national institution. The following are a few extracts from the Report which has been presented to the Board of Visitors his year:—The Twentieth of the Reports which I have had the honour to present to the Board of Visitors will, I trust, be received with indulgence, less on account of the importance of the history which it is to convey, as applying to a year in which no changes of great consequence have been made, than for the numerical place which it occupies in the series of annual documents. The date to which the statements of the Report apply is 1855, May 15; and the interval embraced in its historical portion is that between 1854, May 26, and 1855, May 15. *Astronomical Instruments.*—On the transit-circle, I have only to remark that it is in perfect order, and continues to give the greatest satisfaction to all the observers. The transit-circle at the Observatory of the Cape of Good Hope (constructed generally on the pattern of that at



Greenwich, with some improvements) is mounted, and is, I believe, in full work. It seems to be quite satisfactory to Mr. Maclear. The reflex zenith tube is in general good order. No alteration has been made in the altazimuth. The barrel-apparatus, for the register of transits by punctures produced by galvanic communication, has been in constant use without suffering injury, except in the parts exposed to continual friction, which require occasional attention. The method of giving the time-second-signals from the transit-clock, which I described in my last Report, is found to be perfectly successful. The insulation of the touch-apparatus has sometimes failed in very damp weather; but, when the sky has cleared, the moistened gutta-percha has become dry and the insulation perfect, so speedily that very few transits have been lost. The rest of the galvanic apparatus is, in most respects, in the same state as at the last meeting of the Visitors. In the galvanic magnet for dropping the time-signal-ball, it has been found desirable to guard against the risk of permanent magnetism, by causing the apparatus itself to reverse the poles of the battery at every drop of the ball. When arrangements were originally made for exhibiting the London currents upon the transit-clock needle, and for sending currents to and through London by the touch-apparatus of the transit-circle, in order to avoid disturbing the ground, I so connected the wires by turn-plates that one of the wires of the barrel-apparatus was used for these purposes; but with the increased facilities which I now possess for laying wires, I intend to make the barrel-apparatus-wires entirely independent of the others—preserving, however, the power of connecting the touch-apparatus with the London and foreign wires. *Astronomical Observations.*—The well-understood system of meridional observations of stars remains unaltered, each of the stars in the extended standard list being observed, if possible, twenty times in three years. The moon is observed on the meridian at every opportunity, without exception. In the observation of planets a slight relaxation has been made, which the increased number of those bodies rendered necessary. The small planets are not observed at all in the morning watch (from 3<sup>h</sup> A.M. to daylight), and the large planets are not observed then except in company with the moon. With this qualification, the sun and planets are observed on the meridian at every opportunity, except on Sundays. The whole number of meridional observations, from 1854, May 26, to 1855, May 15, is nearly as follows (an observation of two limbs, or a duplicate transit by eye and ear, and by touch-apparatus, being reckoned as two):—In the transit department; transits, 4680; observations of collimators by means of the transit-telescope, 302; observations of transit-wires by reflection, 302; observations of one collimator by the other, 52; in the meridian-circle department, observations of all kinds, 4565. The number of days on which *γ Draconis* has been observed with the reflex zenith tube is 51. With the altazimuth, the number of days of complete observations of the moon during 12 lunations is 178, or 14·8 per lunation, while with the transit-circle the number has been 97, or 8·1 per lunation. The sky has evidently been less favourable than usual; the failing has taken place principally in the spring of the present year. Of the altazimuth observations, 0 are on days when the moon passed the meridian between 0<sup>h</sup> and 1<sup>h</sup> solar time, 2 between 1<sup>h</sup> and 2<sup>h</sup>, 4 between 2<sup>h</sup> and 3<sup>h</sup>, 3 between 21<sup>h</sup> and 22<sup>h</sup>, 2 between 22<sup>h</sup> and 23<sup>h</sup>, 2 between 23<sup>h</sup> and 24<sup>h</sup>. There are no observations on the meridian corresponding to these. The whole number of separate observations of the moon and stars with the altazimuth is 878, and the whole number of observations of its collimator is 604. The observations have been conducted exactly as in the last years. The following remarks on the result of the reductions may not be without interest:—During the whole time of which I have spoken, the galvanic-contact method has been employed for transits, with the exception of a few days, when the galvanic apparatus was out of order. From the clock-errors, I have deduced the personal equa-

tions of the observers in our usual way; not by making special experiments, in which I have very little confidence, but by taking the transits as we find them, and discussing them on the supposition that the clock-rate has been very steady; a supposition in the adoption of which we are amply justified by the comparison of the clock-errors. The result is, that the magnitude of the personal equations in the galvanic-touch method is not above half of that in the eye-and-ear method. In former communications to the Visitors, I have alluded to the constancy of relation between the azimuths of the transit-circle and of the collimators, while all seem to change with respect to the heavens. Other instances of the same thing have occurred from time to time, and have left upon the minds of the computers the impression that there is a real change in the position of the ground. I need not remark that such a conclusion can be received as valid only after very careful and complete discussion. *Chronometers, Communication of Time, and Operations for Longitude.*—The number of chronometers now on hand is about sixty; twenty of these being on trial for purchase. They are compared, some every day and some every week, and occasionally in extreme temperatures; the repairs of those which belong to the Government are managed; and weekly reports of rates, and monthly reports of repairs, are made to the Admiralty. The system of galvanic normal clock and sympathetic clocks is in the state described in the last year's Report; with this difference only, that the wires to the clock at the Hospital Schools, instead of being suspended across the Park, are carried under ground. The clock at the London Bridge Station is made to distribute the galvanic hourly signals to the Electric Telegraph Company's wires and to the different branches of the South-Eastern Railway wires. The time-signal ball at Deal was brought into regular use at the beginning of the present year. In a short time, however, its action was interrupted, partly by derangement of the apparatus, and partly by the severity of the weather, which froze the sulphuric acid to the state of jelly. I sent an assistant and workman to put it in order, and since that time it has generally acted very well. Since March 2 there have been three failures; one of these arose from the ball hanging on the clips, which were not properly oiled, and one from the turning off of the current on the Railway line; the cause of the third has not been traced out with certainty. The success or failure of the drop is known immediately at Greenwich; as the Deal ball, at the termination of its fall, so alters the connexions of wires that a signal is sent to the Observatory. A register is kept in a prescribed form in the Ball tower at Deal, and copies of this are sent to the Observatory, leaf by leaf, as soon as they are filled. These cautions I consider to be absolutely necessary for maintaining the regular action of the mechanism under rather difficult circumstances. The whole system is so successful that I have no hesitation in recommending its extension to the Government. Application has been made to me from one of the important offices of Government, for the galvanic regulation of their clocks. On considering the risks to which various galvanic communications are liable, and the financial necessity for occupying wires as little as possible, I perceived that it was necessary to devise constructions which should satisfy the following conditions. First, that a current sent once a day should suffice for adjusting the clock, even if it had gone ten or more seconds wrong. Secondly, that an occasional failure of the current should not stop the clock. I have arranged constructions which possess these characters, and the artist (Mr. C. Shepherd) is now engaged in preparing estimates of the expense. I think it likely that this may prove to be the beginning of a very extensive system of clock regulation. I have commenced examination of observations and preparation of skeleton forms for the extension of lunar reductions. *General Remarks.*—A fair examination of the statements already made will show how much our real disposable force has been weakened, by accidental circumstances, during the last year. Two Assistants were absent for a month on the

Pendulum expedition, and the whole of the extensive calculations which followed were made in the Observatory. One Assistant was employed for some time at Deal, another being at the same time partially occupied in London. The longitude of Paris required the absence of an Assistant for some weeks, and threw a great mass of calculation upon us. For mounting the model of the transit-circle at the Exhibition in Paris, one Assistant has been employed in Paris (with four workmen) for a month. It is under these pressures that I have been obliged to require the assistance of supernumeraries for observations—an assistance which I have been compelled to purchase by the sacrifice of part of their time, otherwise available for computation. At the same time, I view the progress of our ordinary work cheerfully. We have effectually maintained the mastery over it; and, if no special cause interrupts us, we shall in a few months have brought everything to the most forward condition in which it is practicable to keep it. For the rest, the general policy of the Astronomical Observatory has been the same as during the last twenty years; to leave the equatorial and scrutinizing departments of astronomy to other observatories, but to spare no expense in instruments, no pains in observation, and no labour in reduction, on standard meridional observations generally, and on meridional and extra-meridional observations of the moon in particular. And I would fain hope that the 'Greenwich Observations' have assumed such a shape, that the astronomer who may desire to find fundamental determinations of the sun's path, of the places of an extensive catalogue of stars, and of the varying positions of all the moving bodies of the solar system, presented in the utmost extent and fulness, and accuracy, may meet with all that he desires in these volumes.

#### TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE following are among the announcements of new works, additional to the list given last week. Dr. Barth is preparing an account of his Travels and Discoveries in Africa, to be published by Messrs. Longman and Co., who also have in hand 'The Narrative of Captain McClure's Arctic Voyage in H.M.S. *Investigator*,' edited by Captain Sherard Osborn. 'The Autobiography of James Silk Buckingham' is to be completed in two more volumes, the third and fourth. A new edition of the works Lord Bacon is being prepared under the editorship of Robert Leslie Ellis, M.A., Cambridge, James Spedding, M.A., and Douglas Denon Heath, Esq., barrister-at-law, all Trinity College men. The entire works will be arranged under the heads of philosophical and literary, professional and occasional works; the last edited by Mr. Spedding, the professional by Mr. Heath, and the philosophical and literary by Mr. Spedding and Mr. Ellis. Dr. Rawley's Life will be given, with notes by Mr. Spedding, and Mr. Ellis undertakes a general introduction to the philosophical writings, which will fill five volumes of about 700 or 800 pages each. The advertisement promises "many pieces not printed before."

Among Mr. Bentley's announcements are the third and concluding volume of the 'Memorials and Correspondence of Charles James Fox,' by Lord John Russell; a translation of Guizot's 'Richard Cromwell and the Dawn of the Restoration,' by A. R. Scoble; 'Lives of Distinguished Generals of the Peninsular War,' by J. W. Cole, Esq., formerly of 21st Fusiliers; the 'Letters of James Boswell, with Notes and Illustrations,' and 'Letters of Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I.,' edited by Mrs. Green, author of 'Lives of the Princesses of England.'

To the literature of war additions are promised. 'The Campaign of Sebastopol,' by Major Hamley, R.A., republished from 'Blackwood's Magazine'; 'The Crimean Enterprise: What should have been done, and what might be done,' by Captain Gleig, 92nd Highlanders (Blackwood); and 'The Past Campaign,' by W. A. Woods, with the 'Journals of Captain Butler at Silistria' (Longman and Co.)

Mr. G. H. Lewes is preparing two volumes on

the 'Life and Works of Goethe, with Sketches of his Age and Contemporaries' from Published and Unpublished Sources' (D. Nutt.) The spirit of the biography, as written by an admirer so enthusiastic as Mr. Lewes, is indicated in the motto already advertised, 'Goethe's heart, which few knew, was as great as his intellect, which all knew,' (Jung Stilling.) We hope Mr. Lewes will tell us the unvarnished truth, as far as he knows it, about Goethe's life. There are strange things on record about him, and perhaps stranger yet unpublished.

Messrs. Nisbet and Co. are preparing an edition of Herbert's Poems, illustrated by Birket Foster, Noel Humphreys, and Clayton, a companion volume to the beautiful edition of Cowper's 'Task,' published last year.

The following regulations on 'Book Post to the Seat of War,' have been issued by the Post Office:—  
 "On and from the 15th inst. the privileges of the book post (subject to the following regulations) will be extended to the British forces serving in Turkey, Greece, the Black Sea, the Baltic, the White Sea, to the Foreign Legion stationed at Heligoland, and also to seamen serving in the transport service in Turkey and the Black Sea; on the understanding, however, that the conveyance of such books, &c., will be restricted to vessels of war and transports, or, in the case of books, &c., to the forces in the East, to direct packets, or to packets *via* Malta. 1. *Postage Rates.*—For a packet not exceeding 4oz., 1d.; ditto exceeding 4oz. and not exceeding 8oz., 2d.; ditto exceeding 8oz. and not exceeding 16oz., 4d.; ditto exceeding 1 lb. and not exceeding 1½ lb., 6d.; and so on, 2d. being charged for every additional half-pound, or any less weight. 2. The postage must be prepaid in full by means of postage stamps affixed outside the packet or its cover. 3. Every packet must be sent either without a cover or in a cover open at the ends or sides. 4. If the postage paid on the packet amount to as much as 4d., it may contain any number of separate books or other publications, votes and proceedings of Parliament, prints or maps, and any quantity of paper, parchment, or vellum (to the exclusion, however, of letters, whether sealed or open), and the books, or other publications, prints, maps, &c., may be either printed, written, or plain, or any mixture of the three. Further, all binding, mounting, or covering of a book, publication, &c., or of a portion thereof, will be allowed, whether such binding, &c., be loose or attached; as also rollers, in the case of prints or maps, markers (whether of paper or otherwise), in the case of books, and, in short, whatever is necessary for the safe transmission of literary or artistic matter, or usually appertains thereto. 5. But if the postage paid be less than 4d. the packet must consist exclusively of printed matter, without restriction, however, either as to the number of publications or separate sheets, or as to whether they are bound or unbound. 6. A book packet, whatever may be the postage paid thereon, must not contain any letter, closed or open, or any enclosure sealed or otherwise closed against inspection, nor must there be any letter, or any communication of the nature of a letter, written or printed, in any such packet, or on its cover. 7. No book packet can be received if it exceeds two feet in length, width, or depth. The rest of the circular consists of instructions to postmasters as to dealing with packets not in accordance with the foregoing regulations. The rules regarding newspapers are not affected by the new book post arrangements.

The programme of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution for the Session 1855-6 has been published. The Session 1855-6 will be opened on Friday evening, the 2nd November, 1855, when an Introductory Address will be delivered by Sir John M'Neill, G.C.B. The following courses of lectures will be delivered during the session:—*Historical Section.* 'On the German Invasions, and their Influence on the Countries of Southern Europe during the Fourth and Fifth Centuries,' by John William Donaldson, D.D., F.R.A.S., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, Author of 'The New Cratylus,' &c., four lectures. 'On the History and Conquests of the Saracens, from the Birth of

Mohammed to the Expulsion of the Moors from Spain,' by Edward A. Freeman, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, six lectures. 'On the Crusades, and their Influence on European Civilization,' by Patrick Edward Dove, Esq., Author of 'The Theory of Human Progression,' four lectures. *Miscellaneous Section.*—'On Epidemics, considered in relation to Climate and Civilization,' by Southwood Smith, M.D., London, Author of 'The Philosophy of Health,' &c., two lectures. 'On the Architecture of Old Edinburgh—its Castle and City,' by R. W. Billings, Esq., Author of 'The Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland,' one lecture. 'On Public Education,' by William B. Hodgson, LL.D., two lectures. The Chamber Music of some of the Great Composers:—Two Concerts, Vocal and Instrumental, under the direction of Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, two lectures. 'On the Elementary Forms of Living Beings, as illustrated by recent Microscopic Investigation,' by T. H. Huxley, F.R.S., Lecturer on Natural History, Government School of Mines, and Fullerian Professor of Physiology, London, two lectures. 'On Paleontology,' by Hugh Miller, Esq., Author of 'The Old Red Sandstone,' &c. &c., two lectures. 'On the Genius and Comedies of Molière,' by Charles Cowden Clarke, Esq., London, four lectures. 'On the Arctic Regions and Arctic Discovery,' by William Scoresby, D.D., F.R.S.S. London and Edinburgh, Member of the Institute of France, Author of 'An Account of the Arctic Regions,' &c. &c., four lectures. 'On Popular Errors in Science,' by Edwin Lankester, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., London, two lectures. 'On National Epics, illustrated by those of the Indo-European Races,' by J. A. Froude, M.A., late Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, four lectures. These lectures, forty in all, are to be delivered on Tuesday and Friday evenings throughout the winter, a concluding address being announced for the 8th April, by Robert Lee, D.D., Professor of Biblical Criticism in the University.

We hear that Lord John Russell is to give the first of the lectures this season before the Young Men's Christian Association, at Exeter Hall, 'On the Hindrances to the Cultivation of Science.' Other lecturers of ability and eminence are on the list, with subjects which promise to render this year's course one of unusual variety and interest.

A proposal is at present before the Court of Common Council, to establish public baths and wash-houses in the City of London, which may well be done, after the successful working of these useful establishments in other metropolitan districts.

At the banquet at Glasgow, last Friday, in celebration of the Crimean victories and the fall of Sebastopol, the usual manifestations of patriotic feeling were accompanied by rhetorical displays worthy of the occasion. Sir Archibald Alison, the historian of the last great war, was fittingly the chief speaker. Some parts of his speech, such as the praises of the Scottish portion of the British army, were meant to tell on the audience around him; but he uttered many sentiments which will be read with deep feeling of sympathy in every part of the world. After describing the early events of the campaign in the Crimea, and referring to the battles of the Alma, of Balaklava, and Inkermann, he proceeded in this characteristic and eloquent strain:—"Since that time what a momentous year has been passed—what alternations of hope and fear, of grief and exultation—what courage and perseverance on the one hand—what steadiness and devotion on the part of our enemies! It has, indeed, been a mighty contest, and mighty beyond all example have been the means employed on both sides. Two hundred and ten thousand French soldiers, 80,000 English, and 15,000 Piedmontese, with 1200 guns, have been sent from the remotest parts of Western Europe to the theatre of conflict on the shores of the Crimea, and they have been confronted by at least an equal number of Russians. The annals of the world will be sought in vain for the waging of such a war at such a distance and with such means. In comparison with it the army of Alexander, the legions of Rome, the hosts of the Crusaders, sink into in-

significance. Proportionally great have been the successes achieved in the terrible strife which ensued. Three victories in pitched battles in the field—an arduous and unparalleled siege of ten months' duration, terminating in a decisive triumph—the total destruction of a fleet of eighteen sail of the line and 100 vessels of war—the capture of a first-rate fortress, with 6000 pieces of cannon—and the bloody defeat of an army of 150,000 men, signalized the campaign before the allied armies had been a year in the peninsula. Neither the storms of autumn nor the snows of winter—neither the floods of December nor the heats of July—neither the sword of the enemy nor the poison of pestilence, have been able to arrest that invincible host. More than all, they faced during ten long and dreary months the fearful service of the trenches—the most arduous that ever fell to the lot of soldiers to discharge. Theirs was none of 'the pomp or circumstance of glorious war'—theirs was not the rush of the assault, the clang of the charge, or the roar of the platoon; nothing but the horrors and solitary discharge of unobtrusive duty. Theirs was the silent advance at midnight into the enemy's outposts, when the deadly rifle was pointed from behind every rock, and death met them at every turn; theirs was the long weary night-watches in the trenches, when the wintry sky was illumined only by the flying projectiles, and if they closed their wearied eyelids for a few minutes, a bomb burst by their side, and they were snatched from sleep to eternity. They suffered and perished in fearful multitudes, but they suffered and perished in silence; others not less courageous succeeded, as the first fell in the deadly strife in the trenches—

'They were true to the last of their blood and their breath, And like reapers advanced to the harvest of death,' till the awful struggle was brought to a termination, and the allied standards implanted on the ramparts of Sebastopol." The meeting was presided over by the premier duke, the Duke of Hamilton, and was attended by all the notables of Glasgow, with distinguished men from all parts of Scotland. The speeches of the chairman were neat and appropriate, and much enthusiasm prevailed throughout the evening. The toast of the French Alliance was responded to by the Duke de Coigny, an old French soldier of the Empire, who spoke thus feelingly of the Alliance, "which I am proud to say has been the constant dream of my life. Yes, gentlemen, I may boast that it has been a dream always present to me, even when I was fighting against you. After every battle I could not help deploring that two great nations like yours and mine could not come to a good understanding. I hoped, if it pleased God, that would not long be the case. Now that we are in possession of that formidable alliance, let us hope that we shall remain friends for ever. If, after the present bloody war is finished, we are again called to the field, let us hope that it will be, as the noble viscount at the head of your government said in his beautiful speech at Romsey, not face to face, but side by side."

The news of the fall of Sebastopol reached New York within twenty days of the event, and caused immense excitement, as the electric wires spread the intelligence all over the continent in a few hours longer. Within three weeks the first despatches were printed and circulated in the towns and villages of the far west, which the news of the Battle of Waterloo did not reach for three months.

The Sultan has conferred the Order of the Medjidie, second class, upon Hafeez Risk Allah Effendi, of the British medical staff, for services rendered by him during the war. Risk Allah is the first Christian subject of the Sultan upon whom this honour has been conferred. He is author of a very good book on Syria, partly descriptive and partly autobiographical, entitled, 'The Thistle and the Cedar of Lebanon,' which we reviewed at the time of its appearance.

Dr. Travers Twiss has been appointed Regius Professor of Civil Law in the University of Oxford.

Roman letters announce the death of the Abbé



Matranga, Greek secretary to the Library of the Vatican, and a distinguished scholar and archaeologist; also of Father Lombardi, a writer of merit and learning.

Count Ouwaroff, a distinguished Russian philologist, and the author of several highly esteemed works, has just died. He was for some time President of the Academy of Science at St. Petersburg.

An Arab manuscript, entitled 'Luminous Document on the exploits of the Hassite Dynasty' (*El Adilla en-Nouvania fi Mefarekh ed-Doula el-Hassia*), has been discovered in an Arab library at Constantine, in Algeria. It is of the middle of the fifteenth century, and is stated to be of considerable historical value. The author of it is one Ibn-Chemma, who is held in high esteem by his learned countrymen.

In the Berlin royal library in 1851 there were 25,000; in 1852, 27,000; and in 1853, 33,500 works lent out to read. There has just been purchased for it a curious and valuable collection of Arabian MSS., 193 in number, also a codex of the long-lost poem by Sigbert von Jembloux, on the Theban martyrs, and the MS. copy of Goethe's first arrangement of Iphigenia.

We learn from continental papers that a meeting took place last week in the Palais de l'Industrie, on the proposal to equalize weights, measures, and coins, all over the civilized world. Baron James Rothschild was called to the chair. Lord Ebrington explained the object of the meeting, after which the chairman proceeded to state that the Exhibition had shown, in a striking way, the inconvenience attending differences of modes of calculation for the products of various countries, and the great advantages that would necessarily follow the adoption all over the world of uniform standards of value. France had cleared the way for such reform by her system of decimalisation, which was found to work exceedingly well. An animated conversation took place, not on the subject of the principle under consideration, which was unanimously admitted, but as to the mode of application—some thinking that the proposed reform ought to begin with an assimilation of currency, while others contended that it would be better to commence with weights and measures, as the French themselves had done. The Government began by decimalising measures, and then applying the principle to weights, before they touched the coin, and by this means avoided giving a shock to established habits and prejudices. The question being put from the chair, the majority pronounced in favour of following the French example. It was then agreed that an association should be formed for the purpose of effecting a general assimilation of measures, weights, and money.

Last Wednesday a bust of James Montgomery was presented, on behalf of the subscribers, by Wilson Overend, Esq., deputy-lieutenant of the West Riding, to the Sheffield Infirmary, in the management of which the poet always took deep and active interest. The bust, by William Ellis, is said to be an excellent likeness of the philanthropist and poet as he appeared towards the close of his life.

M. Maelzel, the maker of several hundred automata, lately expired at Vienna. His Panharmonica, composed of an orchestra of forty-two automaton musicians, who executed with perfect precision the overtures of *Don Giovanni* of Mozart, of *Iphigénie en Aulide* of Gluck, and of the *Vestale* of Spontini, as well as a number of airs from various operas, was long exhibited in the principal cities of Europe.

The medals which are to be distributed to the more meritorious exhibitors in the Universal Exhibition at Paris, are now being coined at the Mint. The model of them has been executed by M. Barre. On one side is a profile of the Emperor, with the words "Napoléon III.—Empereur." On the reverse are the imperial arms ornamented with palms and wreaths, surrounded by the arms of different nations, and surmounted by a scroll bearing the inscription, "Exposition Universelle, Agriculture, Industrie, Beaux Arts.—Paris, 1855."

It is said that the English will carry off many medals, and that they will even obtain one of the four gold ones for the Fine Arts.

The French Academy of Fine Arts lately held its annual public meeting in Paris. The principal feature in the proceedings was the reading of a biographical and critical notice, written by M. Halevy, of the late George Onslow, an Englishman who passed his life in Zurich, and who, though not gifted with a very good musical organization, rose to very considerable eminence as a composer.

The French artists who sent works to the Exhibition in the United States are, it appears, excessively indignant at the manner in which they have been treated. They complain that, contrary to a solemn promise, they have had to bear all the expense of sending out and bringing back their works; that the frames have been removed from the paintings, and appropriated; that the pictures have been returned rolled up like bales of cloth; that the exhibitors have been subjected to personal annoyance and insult, &c. How far these complaints are well founded we have no means of knowing.

At Kidderminster, this week, the inauguration of the new Music Hall, Library, and Corn Exchange, has proved the occasion of a great musical gathering. The organ, by Hill, of London, is a remarkably fine instrument. In the performance of the *Creation*, the *Messiah*, and other oratorios, Madame Clara Novello, Miss Dolby, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, and other distinguished vocalists, took the leading parts, with effective choruses, and orchestra led by Mr. Sainton. This festival has been an important event in the annals of Kidderminster.

Rossini's *Cenerentola* has been produced with some success by the new company of the Italian Theatre at Paris. The Duke of Saxe Coburg's new opera, *Sainte Claire*, continues to be performed at the Grand Opera in that city. The Opéra Comique has produced a new opera in one act, called *Deucalion et Pyrrha*, by M. Montford, but it is of no great merit. The four most distinguished composers of the day are now in Paris,—Rossini, Meyerbeer, Verdi, and Auber.

It is stated in the Paris newspapers, that Madame Ristori, the Italian tragic actress, who has obtained such extraordinary success in Paris, has given up all idea of coming to London, in consequence of the Lord Chamberlain having notified to her that she would not be allowed to perform *Myrrha*, her most successful character.

All the letters received in Paris from the United States concur in representing Mdlle. Rachel's expedition as a complete failure. This result has greatly annoyed not only the personal friends and admirers of the actress, but the whole theatrical and literary community of Paris. It is regarded by the latter as a sort of outrage to *la belle France*. Not admire an actress whom France has admired for years—not applaud the pieces in which she appears, though they are by Corneille and Racine, the great tragic poets of France—what presumption, what impudence, *quelle horreur!* The good scribbling people are, one and all, literally stupefied with astonishment, and savage from disgust. They accordingly endeavour to avenge the national insult by abusing the unfortunate Yankees in vigorous terms; even the great Jules Janin devotes a whole *feuilleton* to denunciation of them. They are, we are told, uncouth barbarians who know nothing of literature or art, sordid wretches who think only of dollars, benighted heathen who can neither read nor understand French, presumptuous coxcombs who fancy themselves wiser than all France and all Europe—wiser than Paris, "the capital of civilization," the "great centre of intelligence," the "light of the world,"—wiser even than that small and exalted band of Parisian critics whose articles all Europe reads with enthusiasm, and to whose fians, in all matters of literature and art, she bows with implicit obedience. It is impossible, assuredly, not to sympathise with people who think themselves so grievously and so scandalously wronged as these gentlemen do; but perhaps, after all, they would do well not to display their vexation quite so strongly, for, as all the world

knows them to be beyond all question the wisest, greatest, noblest, and most brilliant of men, they might treat with magnanimous contempt the paltry attempt of a set of American democrats to reverse one of their judgments.

The season commences this evening at the Olympic with the *School for Scandal*, and a new farce, *Catching a Mermaid*, in which Mr. Robson will appear. The Princess's opens on Monday, when *Henry VIII.* is to be resumed, and a new one-act comedy, *Don't Judge by Appearances*. The spectacle of *Henry VIII.* is to close with the queen's death, a part of the performance which, however wonderful as a display of art, was a most repulsive and objectionable exhibition. The scene ought to have ended with the vision.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—June 13th.—Mr. Hamilton, President, in the chair. 'On a Fossil Sirenoid Mammal from Jamaica.' By Professor Owen, F.G.S. The subject of this notice is completely petrified and adherent to the mass of rock in which it is embedded, and by the fracture of which into three pieces it was brought to light. Sufficient of the matrix has been cleared away to demonstrate the mammalian character of the occiput; the round orbit turned upwards by the outward development of its lower border; the large, almost horizontal, nostril, extending to between the orbits; a thick, convex, deflected muzzle, formed by the pre-maxillary bones; and a lower jaw which resembles in some of its characters that of the manatee. The texture of the bone shows the same dense compact character as in the sirenoid mammals. The fore-part of the lower jaw contains incisors and a canine; the molars are numerous, with two or more roots, adapted, like those of the manatee, for bruising vegetable substances, but with a different form. The author terms this fossil mammal the *Provasotomus sirenoides*. It is from a compact limestone, underlying and different from the ordinary carious tertiary limestone of Jamaica, and resting on conglomerate and sandstone in the central high ground of the island, and submitted to the author's examination by Mr. H. H. Shirley, of Freeman's Hall estate, Jamaica, near which place the fossil was found. 'On the Earthquakes at Brussa.' By Mr. Consul Sandison. After the lapse of six weeks from the first great shock, and its succeeding lesser tremors, a far more severe shock occurred on 11th April, at 8 P.M. The shock, which lasted thirty seconds, and was succeeded throughout the night by incessant and alarming shakings, together with an awful conflagration, has totally destroyed the city. Several neighbouring villages also suffered severely. The earthquake appears to have spent its force immediately under Brussa and the country within a radius of about two leagues from that centre. This earthquake was accompanied by the outbursts of new springs of hot water at the sites of the hot mineral baths, and the former streams have been greatly increased in volume. 'On the Section of the Old Red Sandstone and Crystalline Rocks at the Eastern Extremity of the Grampians.' By Prof. J. Nicol, F.G.S. The section extends from Stonehaven in the south to Aberdeen on the north. Near Stonehaven, the Old Red or Devonian strata appear dipping south at high angles. Some of the beds consist of conglomerates of rounded masses, varying from an inch or less to blocks of two or three feet in diameter. Some of these boulders have, since they were embedded in the conglomerate, been crushed, broken, and again cemented together, whilst others have been indented, as if by a harder stone pressing against them when in a soft state. The mineral character of these blocks is peculiar. The greater number consist of quartz or a kind of hardened sandstone; trap rocks, greenstones, amygdaloids, and clay-stones are next in number; then quartzose felspar-porphyrates; whilst granite is very rare, and gneiss and mica-slate entirely absent. These strata seem, therefore, to have been derived from the waste of rocks not seen in the vicinity, and not from the detritus of the northern primary mountains, which is of an

entirely different character. The crystalline rocks in these mountains are clay-slate, mica-slate with garnets, and gneiss. The clay-slate, however, instead of resting on the mica-slate, appears to dip under it, and hence the author infers that the rocks have been inverted, throwing the less metamorphic under the more highly altered series. In proceeding north, the beds become first vertical, and then dip to the south, often at low angles. The author ascribes the inverted position of the clay-slate to the crushing up and folding together of the strata consequent on the intrusion of the granite on the north, and not to the trap-rocks which appear more or less continuously along the whole line of junction of the clay-slate and red sandstone on the south border of the Grampians. 'Notice of some Raised Beaches in Argyleshire.' By Captain E. J. Bedford, R.N. Two of these raised beaches occur in the Lunga Islands, one of them in Lunga proper, the other in North Fullah. Their present altitude was calculated to be 40ft. 8in. above high-water-mark. A third was found in Kerera Island, and has the same height as the former. These were illustrated by highly-finished sketches, which also indicated the position of other raised beaches in Oronsay at 38ft. 6in. elevation, in the south-western angle of Jura at 34ft. 5in., and at Loch Tarbert in Jura at 42ft. 6in., and at 105ft. 5in. 'On Sand-worn Granite near the Land's End, Cornwall.' By R. W. Fox, Esq. In a ravine opening upon Whitsand Bay, the author observed that the quartz-sand blown up by the wind wore away the exposed granite of the hill-side, leaving on it a more or less polished surface, and scoring it with striae and furrows having a direction agreeing with the general direction of the glen. Loose fragments of the granite also were worn away, and roughly rounded by the action of the drifted sand. 'On the Brown Coal Formation of North Germany.' By Professor Beyrich, with observations by Mr. Hamilton, President of the Geological Society. In a letter to Mr. Hamilton, Professor Beyrich pointed out that instead of there being two brown coal formations in north Germany, as stated in the President's Address for 1855, on a misconception of M. Plattner's observations on the subject, there is but one. Mr. Hamilton remarked that this modification interferes considerably with the supposed succession from the lower tertiary of Magdeburg to the sub-alpine series of the Vienna basin, of which he had treated in his late papers on that subject. 'On the Origin and Formation of the Red Soil of India.' By Dr. W. Gilchrist. The author having had great opportunities of studying the 'red soil' of Seringapatam, the Mysore plains, &c., has arrived at the conclusion that it has been derived from the atmospheric degradation of the trap dykes of hornblende rock traversing the gneiss of southern India, and that it has been transported by and deposited in water over extensive tracts. It rests on the gneiss, with the intervention of rolled blocks of gneiss, &c., and contains waterworn sand and sometimes pebbles, but no fossils. The author has noticed in Rothesay, Isle of Bute, a trap rock decomposing in a similar manner to that of the hornblende rock above referred to, and yielding a brownish earth, analogous to the 'red soil' of India. 'On the Umret and other Coal-fields of India.' By the Rev. Messrs. Hislop and Hunter. In the observations read last session on the so-called Jurassic (or plant-bearing) formation of the Nagpur territory, the authors recognised four members in the following descending order:—A. Thick-bedded, coarse, ferruginous sandstone, with a few stems of trees. B. Laminated sandstone, exceedingly rich in vegetable remains. C. Clay shales of various colours, and bearing worm-tracks and foot-marks. D. Limestones generally altered and crystalline. At that time the authors thought it probable that the Bengal coal deposits might be referable to the shales (C) of this series; but, having had further opportunities of personal investigation, they find that the carboniferous beds of Umret and the Mahadewa hills are true representatives of the Burdwan coal of Bengal, and are referable, not to the Nagpur shales (C), but to the Nagpur

sandstone with plants (B). Since their former communication the authors have been enabled to visit the coal-bearing deposits at Umret, and at the foot of the Pachmadi or Mahadewa Hills, 120 miles north of Nagpur, some notice of which was given to the Society by Lieut. Sankey. A few miles north of Umret there occurs a descending series of sandstone, coal, argillaceous and bituminous shales, sandy shales, and sandstone. The shales here represent the plant-bearing sandstone of Nagpur. At the Mahadewa Hills the overlying sandstone (which, like that of Umret and of Nagpur, is characterized by iron bands) is of much greater thickness than to the south. Under this sandstone of the Mahadewa, come green shales and bituminous shales, equivalent to those of Umret. From the examination also of the fossil plants (*Vertebraria*, *Trizygia*, *Phyllothea*, *Cyclopteris*, *Glossopteris*, *Pecopteris*, and *Sphenopteris*), plentifully occurring in all these localities, the same conclusion is arrived at,—namely, that the shales of Umret and the Mahadewa are truly equivalent to the plant-bearing sandstone of Nagpur, which last, indeed, in some places has argillaceous modifications. The authors point out also that the bituminous shales of Kotah, on the Pranhita, (sections of which have been published in the Society's journal,) appear to belong to the same series, and underlie the iron-banded sandstone, as in other localities. The Kotah shales have afforded fish remains of a jurassic type (*Lepidotus Deccanensis*, *Echmodus Egertoni*, &c.), and at one place, Mangali, between Kotah and Nagpur, the equivalent of the Nagpur plant-bearing sandstone has yielded the labyrinthodont reptilian skull lately described in the Society's journal by Professor Owen. The extension of the bituminous and anthracitic shales in other localities, namely, Duntimnapilly, Singra, on the Bagin River, Umla Ghat, &c., is alluded to. Thus, on the south, north, and east of the Nagpur territory, the carboniferous shales hold the same relation to the overlying iron-banded sandstone; and, though it is difficult to comprehend the Burdwan coal field in the comparison, as it lies in a basin, and has no overlying formation, yet the fossils are the same as those of the Mahadewa, Umret, and Nagpur, and bear evident proof of the contemporaneity of the whole. 'On some small Fossil Seeds from Lewisham.' By Dr. Hooker, F.G.S. These minute seed-vessels were found by the late Rev. Mr. Delacondam, and were noticed by Mr. Prestwich in his paper in the journal on the Woolwich beds. They occurred (three or four specimens) in the 'Planorbis-bed,' associated with fresh-water shells, a few dicotyledonous leaves, and the leaves of ferns and other monocotyledons. The flora of this portion of the eocene series appears to indicate a climate not dissimilar from that of England at the present day. For these little fossil seed-vessels the author finds it difficult to indicate a relationship among existing plants. The form and structure of the seed much resemble that of magnolia; but the sac contains numerous spores of a cryptogamic character, and perhaps it may rank nearest to Ferns. The author suggests *Rhytidiosporum* (wrinkle-spore) as a provisional generic name, and refers it to the same species as Brongniart's *Carpolites ovulum*, from the Paris fluviatile tertiaries. 'On some Small Fossil Seed-vessels from Bovey Tracey.' By Dr. Hooker, F.G.S. These little fossils occur plentifully in the Bovey lignites with which Dr. Croker has favoured the Kew museum. The lignite itself is formed of coniferous wood; and a cone, not distinguishable in its fossil state from the cone of the Scotch fir (*Pinus sylvestris*), has been found in these deposits. These small seed-vessels, however, have no relation with the coniferæ, and, like the little fossil seed-vessel from Counter Hill, alluded to in the last paper, are not referable to any known plants. The author, however, regards them as belonging to a group of plants more nearly allied to ferns than to any other known living order. Dr. Hooker recognises these fossils as the *Folliculites minutulus*. The genus to which these fossil seeds are referred, is Zenker's, who described an allied species, and the specific name is Sternberg's; specimens

have been figured from the brown coal of Germany, and the *Carpolites thalictroides* of Brongniart, from the Paris tertiaries, belongs to the same genus.

#### VARIETIES.

*The Parliamentary Printing Committee.*—The expense of Parliamentary printing has for many years been a subject of complaint with members of Parliament of the economist school, and numerous reductions in the prices paid have taken place. In the year 1833 the prices of the Queen's printers were greatly lowered; in 1850 the prices of Mr. Hansard and of Messrs. Nichols and Son were reduced 10 per cent.; in 1851 a further reduction of 10 per cent. took place; and in 1853 it was determined that at the commencement of 1854 another 10 per cent. should be taken off. This naturally led to a remonstrance from the Parliamentary printers, who urged the peculiar nature of the work, the great outlay required for materials, &c., which had been recognised by the committee of 1850, who made as great a reduction as could reasonably be made. A lengthy correspondence ensued, which terminated in the reduction being persisted in, and submitted to by Messrs. Nichols and Mr. Hansard on the express condition that this reduction might be considered final, that no further alterations would be made for a term of years, and that they might make their arrangements accordingly. Yet, in spite of this, in less than six months from the time the reduced prices came into operation, another committee was appointed to consider the cheapest, most expeditious, and most efficient mode of executing Parliamentary printing. The principal witness for the economists was Mr. McCulloch, Comptroller of the Stationery Department, who is evidently no friend to the working man, and speaks most contemptuously of a "parcel of printers." He recommended that a further reduction should be made, and presumed that Messrs. Nichols and Mr. Hansard would submit to it rather than relinquish their business. He also thought it would be an improvement if the job-printing now executed by Messrs. Hartnell were not disposed of by contract, but that he should be allowed to give it to whom he liked, and remove it whenever the printer displeased him. He evinced all through his evidence a strong bias in favour of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, who have, it appears, taken a contract at a very low rate. Mr. Varden, Librarian of the House of Commons, showed that a much less amount was paid by the House of Commons than was paid for printing by private speculators, and that it does not pay a greater amount than is paid between publisher and printer in the trade, and thought that the arrangement which had been come to barred any alteration for the present. \* \* \* The Committee having examined the proposals of Major Beniowski, inventor of alleged improvements in composing, state that they do not deem it advisable to prosecute the matter further, since the author of the invention, as well as others, will have an opportunity of tendering for the contract whenever fresh arrangements may be made for the execution of Parliamentary printing, which they recommend to be done in 1860, when the patent of the Queen's Printer will have expired, and the other arrangements may be considered to have terminated. And they also recommend that the contract for job printing shall not be renewed, and that the plan recommended by Mr. McCulloch shall be tried for a limited period.—*Typographical Circular.*

*American Coal-fields.*—The three great coal-fields in America are,—The Ohio, 740 miles long and 180 wide, covering an area of 60,000 square miles, a greater surface than that of England and Wales. The Illinois coal-field covers 500,000 square miles; and the Michigan occupies 15,000 square miles. Besides these, there are numerous anthracite basins in Pennsylvania and Virginia, the furthest being 100 miles from the margin of the Ohio coal-fields. The coal, the bituminous coal-field of the Ohio, is 2800 feet, deep. The working of these coal-fields is increasing very rapidly; 3,000,000 tons of anthracite and 1,000,000 tons of bituminous coal are raised annually.



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